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HORROR TALES

JANUARY 1970
35¢

FEATURING

HOUSE OF
MONSTERS

THE
WITCH
AND THE
WEREWOLF

PLUS OTHER
SPINE-SNAPPING
TALES FROM
WORLDS BEYOND.

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SPLIT PERSONALITY
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HORROR TALES

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Mel Lenny, Publisher

Carl Burgos, Editor

Irving Fass, Art Director

Ezra Jackson, Art Editor

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THE NARROW, WINDING ROAD THAT
TWISTS UP PRECIPITOUS CLIFFS TO
THE GRIM CASTLE THAT ETCHES
THE ANGRY SKY IS CALLED BY
THOSE WHO LIVE IN ITS
SHADOWS, THE...

HOUSE OF MONSTERS

AT THIS POINT IT MUST
BE NOTED THAT THE
DORNER BOTH HERE AND
ABROAD ARE A FAMILY
OF NOTED SCIENTISTS WHO
SPECIALIZE IN PSYCHIC
PHENOMENA AS WELL
AS OTHER UNUSUAL
EXPERIMENTS! THE
CASTLE ON BLACK MOUNTAIN
HAS PASSED FROM
GENERATION TO
GENERATION AND NOW
PAUL DORNER IS ABOUT
TO INHERIT THE
EDIFICE!



FIRST WE MUST TAKE YOU TO A LAW OFFICE...

YOUR UNCLE HAS LEFT YOU THIS CASTLE IN HIS WILL, DORNER... BUT I'M WARNING YOU... **STRANGE THINGS ARE GOING ON UP THERE!**

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES! THE DORNERS ARE MEN OF SCIENCE, MR. BLANE! WE LEAVE **SUPERSTITION** TO THE VILLAGERS!

WELL GOOD LUCK! IF YOU CONTACT A PETE SMITH, HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU! ...BY THE WAY, TAKE A **PISTOL** FOR PROTECTION!

THANKS... I'LL TAKE THE ADVICE!

Last Will and Testament
of **WILLIAM DORNER**

I HAVE HERE WRITTEN DOWN WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY ESTATE...
I HAVE HERE WRITTEN DOWN WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY ESTATE...
I HAVE HERE WRITTEN DOWN WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY ESTATE...
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I HAVE HERE WRITTEN DOWN WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY ESTATE...

YOUNG DORNER DISMISSED BLANE'S CAUTION AS EYE WASH... AND TO SHOW HIM THAT SCIENTISTS DON'T SCARE EASILY, SET OUT FOR THE BLACK MOUNTAINS THAT AFTERNOON...

LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN HITTING THE BOTTLE HARD!

ER-MIND IF I JOIN YOU, SIR? MY NAME IS DORNER!

UNTIL FINALLY, IN A TAVERN IN THE TOWN OVERSHADOWED BY THE MYSTERIOUS CASTLE...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OLD DORNER CASTLE, BARTENDER?

NOTHING I'D CARE TO TELL YOU, STRANGER! ASK THAT BAR FLY OVER THERE... HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS!

DORNER?
--CASTLE?
ARRGH-HH!

MONSTER! MONSTER!!

KEEP AWAY!

TAKE IT EASY!
I'M YOUR FRIEND!
COME BACK!
HEY!

NEXT EVENING PAUL WAS EAGER TO BE OFF, BUT IN THE SILENCE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE DRUNK'S TERROR STILL WITH HIM, HE BEGAN TO FEEL HIS CONFIDENCE OOOZE AWAY!



IF HE HAD KNOWN WHAT HORRORS WERE BEING HATCHED BY THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL IN THE CASTLE HE WOULD'VE TURNED BACK!

YOUNG DORNER IS ON HIS WAY, PROFESSOR! WE GOTTA GET RID OF HIM!

DON'T WORRY! A SHOT OF THIS SERUM INTO OUR LITTLE FRIEND HERE WILL DECIDE WHO OWNS THE CASTLE!



PROF. VARIG ASSISTANT TO PAUL'S UNCLE WITHDREW THE NEEDLE AND THEN WATCHED IT GROW INTO A FRIENZIED HULK OF A MONSTER, THEN VARIG SET IT ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN TO MEET PAUL DORNER!



GOOD LORD! WHAT KIND OF THING IS IT?

PAUL FROZE IN HIS TRACKS AS THE LOATHSOME HULK BLOCKED HIS PATH AND REACHED FOR HIM!

TERROR FORCED HIS HAND TO RIP AN AUTOMATIC FROM ITS HOLSTER AND AS THE GUN SPAT OUT A STACCATO OF LEAD, HIDEOUS SCREAMS ROARED THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAINSIDE...



SUDDENLY, A SWISH OF AIR AND...



MY ARM!
MY ARM!

THE SIGHT OF HIS ARM AND THE WOUNDED MONSTER STUNNED PAUL'S BRAIN! HE STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET... THE PAIN MINIMIZED BY A STATE OF SHOCK!



...AND STUMBLED DAZEDLY INTO DORNER CASTLE AS UNSEEN EYES WATCHED CLOSELY EVERY STEP HE MADE IN THE EERIE CORRIDORS!



HE GOT PAST THE MONSTER! I'LL FIX HIM FOR YOU NOW, PROFESSOR!

VERY WELL... BUT DON'T MESS HIM UP... I WANT A GOOD SPECIMEN!



HOURS LATER, THE ACRID ODOR OF DISINFECTANTS AND A THROBBING ARM AWAKENED PAUL DORNER INTO A SCENE OF INDESCRIBABLE HORROR ...



... ONLY TO LEARN HIS FATE AS PRESCRIBED BY PROFESSOR VARIG!

PAUL, IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'RE STILL USEFUL TO SCIENCE! DID YOUR UNCLE EVER TELL YOU ABOUT OUR HOBBY OF VIVISECTION? NO?... NEVER MIND!

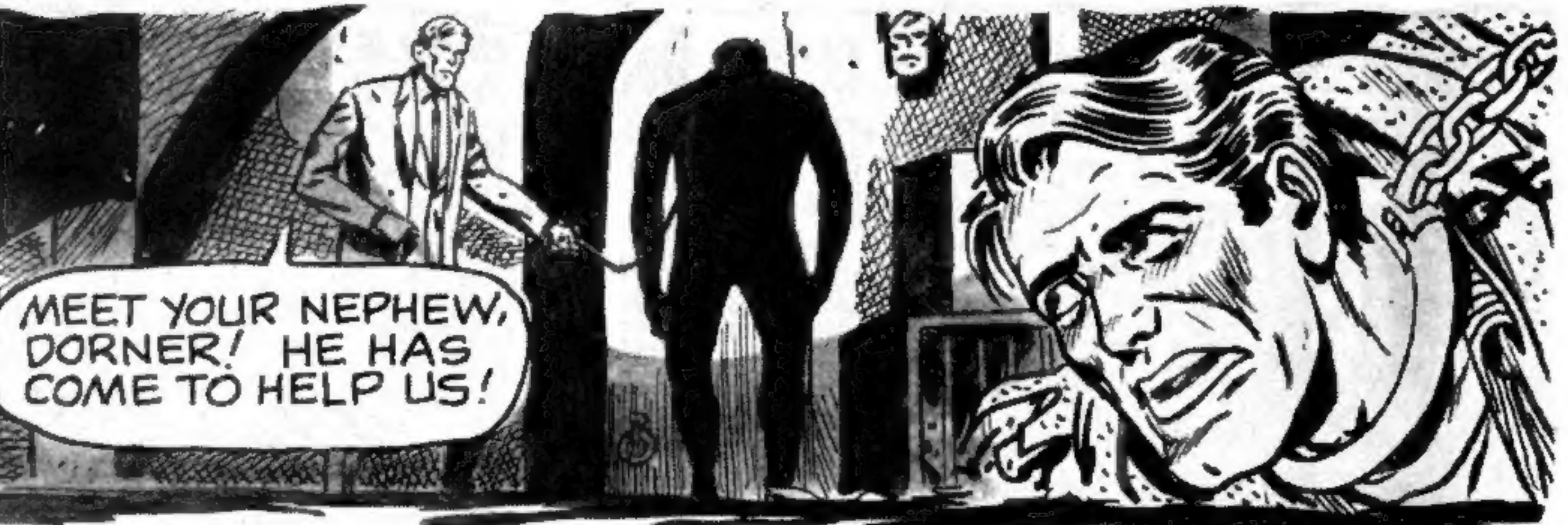
- WE ONLY NEED YOUR LEFT ARM!



BY THE WAY, YOUR UNCLE'S WILL GAVE US MORE MATERIAL TO WORK ON THAN WE BARGAINED FOR... FIRST HIM AND NOW... YOU!



PAUL IN HIS DAZED CONDITION DID NOT UNDERSTAND... BUT WHEN THE PROFESSOR TOLD HIS ASSISTANT TO BRING PAUL'S UNCLE...THE HORRIBLE TRUTH BEGAN TO DAWN ON HIM!



MEET YOUR NEPHEW, DORNER! HE HAS COME TO HELP US!



Y-YOU COULDN'T HAVE SOB-
Y-YOU...
MADMEN!

THAT'S NOT MY UNCLE!
HE'S DEAD!
...DEAD!

PAUL'S MIND WANDERED... THE LOSS OF BLOOD FROM HIS WOUND FORCED HIM INTO A WELCOMED BLACKOUT WHEN SUDDENLY THE LAB WAS FILLED WITH SHRILL SCREAMS!



W-WHAT IS IT?

THAT FOOL! HE MUST HAVE ONLY WOUNDED THE MONSTER! AND THE SERUM IS STILL WORKING!



RUN! RUN!

THE MONSTER, THIRSTING FOR REVENGE FOR THE WOUNDS IT HAD SUFFERED LASHES OUT AT PROF. VARIG AND HIS ASSISTANT!



MY LEG!

AKKK GHH!

MEANWHILE, PAUL CAME TO, AND...

I AM YOUR UNCLE, PAUL! THE KEY... ON THE FLOOR... FELL OUT OF THE PROFESSOR'S POCKET!



UNCLE! LOOK OUT...THE MONSTER IS HEADED FOR YOU!



THE GRUESOME SAVAGERY OF THE MONSTER ATTACKING HIS UNCLE AND THE FIENDISH HOWLS OF THE OTHER BATTLING MONSTERS AS THEY BROKE FROM THEIR CAGES IN THE DARK RECESSES OF THE EVIL CASTLE...



...DROVE PAUL SCREAMING INTO THE DARKNESS... AND... **INSANITY!**



BUT THE LOSS OF BLOOD WAS TOO MUCH FOR PAUL! THE TOWNSFOLK FOUND HIM ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN... **DEAD!**



the END

the WITCH and the WEREWOLF









REALLY, YOU CAN'T BLAME THE YOUNG MAN AFTER ALL, HE WAS AN AMBITIOUS LIFE-INSURANCE SALESMAN WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE I AM A WITCH, THAT MY DAUGHTER IS A WEREWOLF, OR THAT WE LIVE IN A HAUNTED HOUSE! THAT'S WHY HE CAME AT MIDNIGHT! I HOPE THE POOR FELLA HAD LIFE INSURANCE.



THE SPOTS



THE HOUSE ON THE HILL WAS CURSED AND EVERYONE KNEW IT EXCEPT THE ARTIST WHO BOUGHT IT BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO LIVE... THAT IS UNTIL THEY CAME...

I ALWAYS HEARD YOU CITY FELLAS WAS CRAZY, MISTER SWINTON... BUT YOU MUST BE REALLY DAFT TO MOVE INTO THE "OLD PLACE"! STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN THERE... IT'S ACCURSED!

NONSENSE! IT'S A PERFECT PLACE FOR AN ARTIST TO WORK!

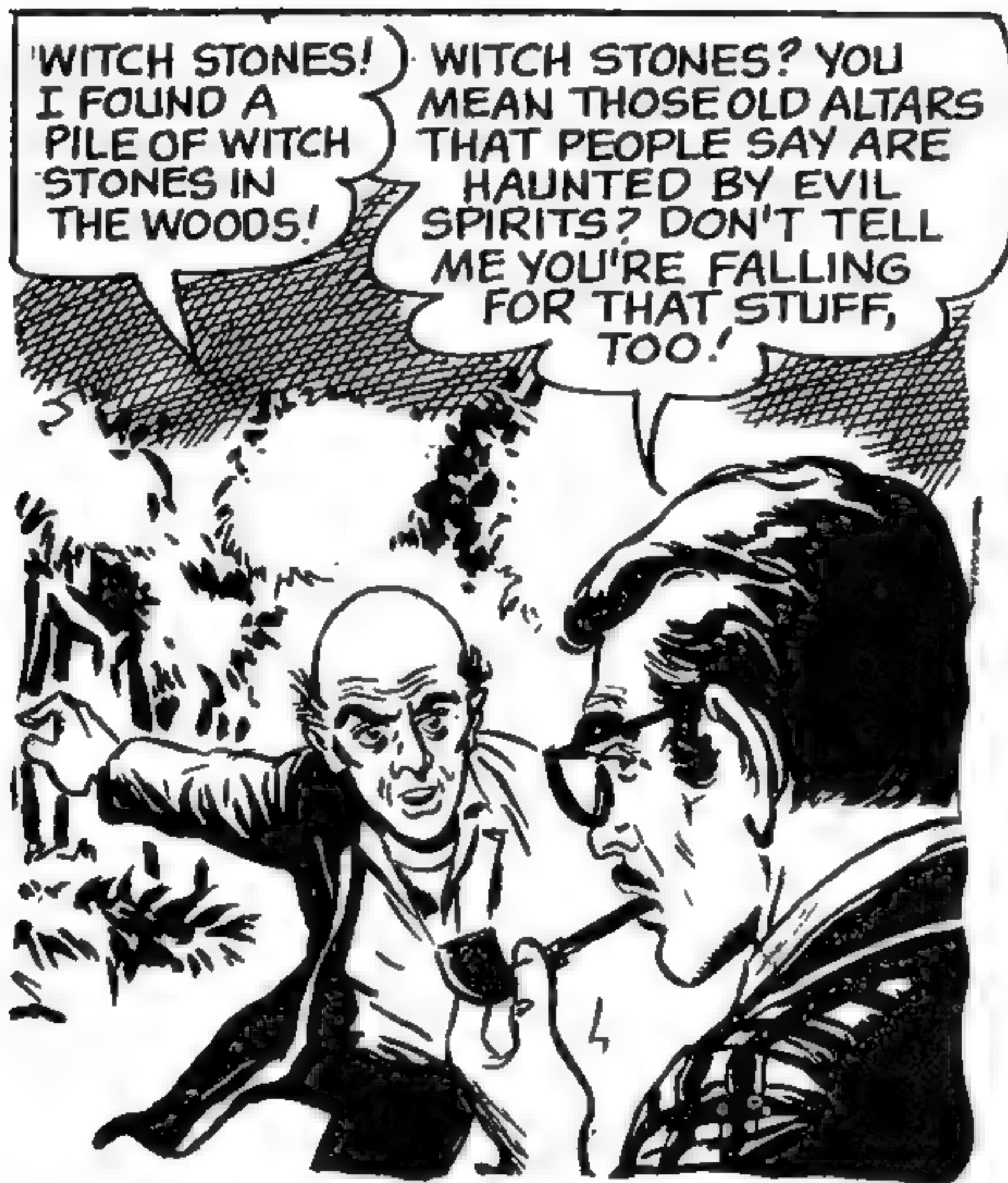


LATE THAT DAY... AS DUSK SETTLED OVER THE RAMBLING OLD HOUSE...

MISTER SWINTON! MISTER SWINTON!

IT'S MAC DUFFY MY HIRED MAN! WONDER WHAT'S BOTHERING HIM?





WITCH STONES! I FOUND A PILE OF WITCH STONES IN THE WOODS!

WITCH STONES? YOU MEAN THOSE OLD ALTARS THAT PEOPLE SAY ARE HAUNTED BY EVIL SPIRITS? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FALLING FOR THAT STUFF, TOO!



BUT MAC LEADS SWINTON TO THE WOODS... SEE? THIS MEANS THE WITCH MEN WILL BE OUT TONIGHT! WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

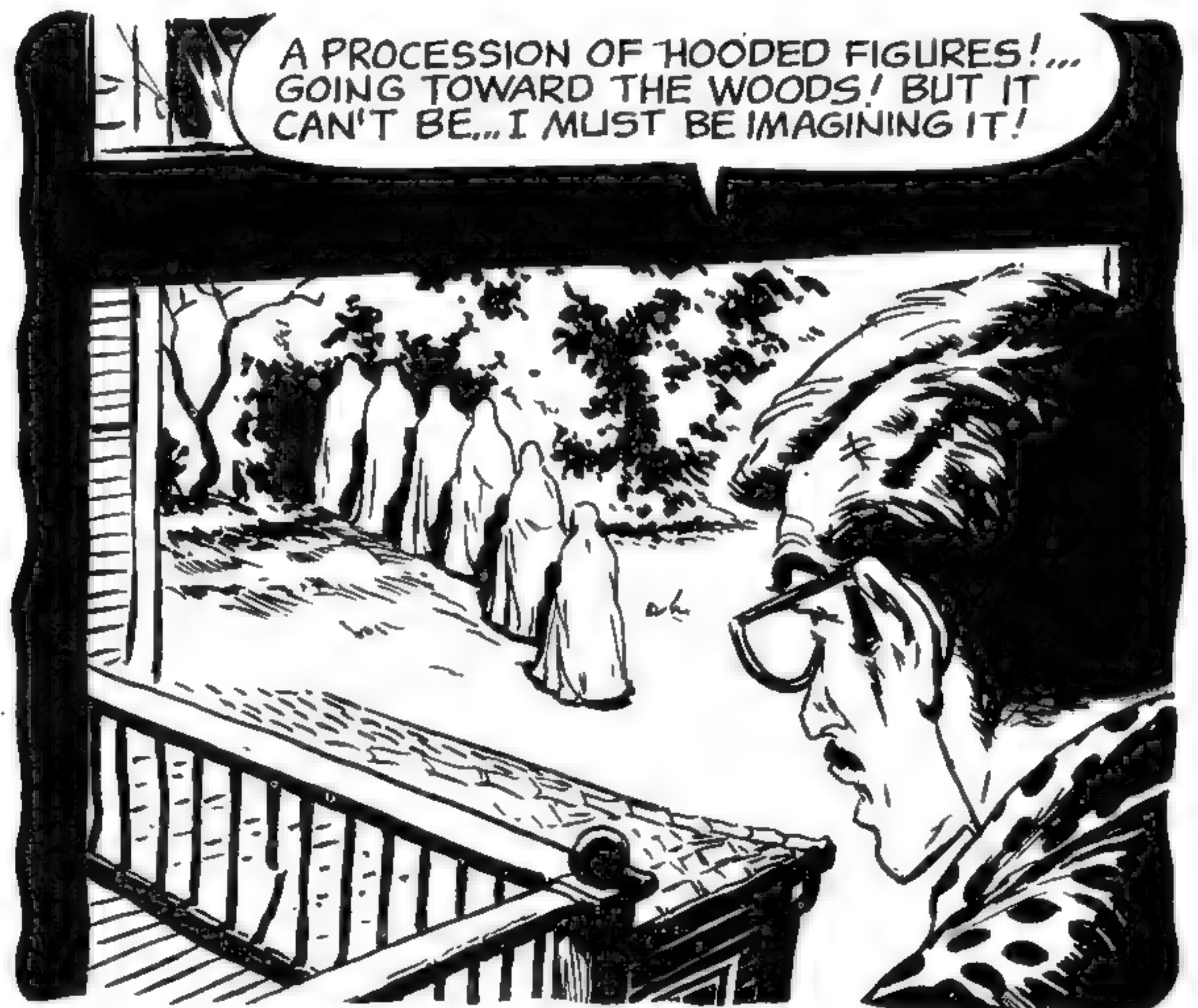
TAKE IT EASY, MAC!

WONDER WHERE THOSE STONES CAME FROM? THEY WEREN'T HERE WHEN I FIRST LOOKED AT THIS PLACE...



THAT NIGHT...

I WONDER WHAT AWAKENED ME...



A PROCESSION OF HOODED FIGURES!... GOING TOWARD THE WOODS! BUT IT CAN'T BE... I MUST BE IMAGINING IT!



THEY'RE GONE! IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN ILLUSION... THE MOON ON THE GRASS...

DID YOU SEE THEM? DID YOU SEE THEM? HAHAAHAHAHAH!



I SAW... BUT IT WAS JUST REFLECTIONS... THE MOON...

NO! HAHAA... IT WAS THEM! THE ACCURSED ONES! SOMEONE WILL DIE SOON... HEHEHEHE!

THE NEXT MORNING, MAC STILL BABBLING WILDLY IS LED AWAY...



POOR MAC! SUPERSTICIAN...AND A FEW MOONBEAMS ON THE GRASS DID THIS TO HIM! NOW I'M STUCK WITHOUT A HIRED MAN... BUT I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PLACE!

YOU LOOKING FOR A HIRED MAN, MR. SWINTON?

A VOICE BEHIND ME? THERE WAS NO ONE THERE A MOMENT AGO!



NAME'S PETER FALK, MISTER SWINTON... I ASK IF YOU WANT A HIRED MAN!

OH... YOU CAME UP BEHIND ME SO QUIETLY! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE, FALK! YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS SECTION?



YES... I'VE KNOWN THIS SECTION... A LONG TIME!

OKAY... YOU'RE HIRED!



IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THE GRASS IS WITHERED AWAY WHERE HE STOOD! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME, ANYWAY? IF I DON'T WATCH IT THEY WILL BE TAKING ME AWAY!

THEN I'LL START WITH WHAT I HAVE TO DO!



A FEW DAYS LATER... AN OLD FRIEND ARRIVES FOR A VISIT...

HELLO, STEVE! HOW ARE YOU?

FINE... THIS IS QUITE A PLACE... BUT THE TAXI DRIVER DIDN'T SEEM EAGER TO TAKE ME HERE, THOUGH...



AFTER SUPPER THAT NIGHT...

THAT'S FUNNY! FALK IS TAKING THE MIRROR OUT OF THE LIVING ROOM! I DIDN'T TELL HIM TO DO THAT!

YOU KNOW, THEY SAY THE WALKING DEAD NEVER CAST REFLECTIONS! AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME, I HALF BELIEVE THAT'S WHY HE'S DOING IT!



AFTERWARDS, STEVE AND DON WENT FOR A WALK...

...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN PAINTING WELL... ALL THESE NIGHTMARE SHAPES... I DON'T MEAN TO PAINT THEM... THEY JUST SEEM TO COME FROM MY BRAIN...



STEVE! STEVE! WHERE ARE YOU? WHA--? THAT SCREAM... FROM NEAR THE PILE OF STONES!



THE HOODED FIGURES! THEY'VE GOT STEVE... NO... NO...



AS SWINTON RAN TOWARD THE SCENE, THE STRANGE FIGURES DISAPPEARED!

STEVE! HE'S DEAD! I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE! THE KEY TO THIS HORROR LIES THERE...



FRANTICALLY HURRYING TO THE HOUSE, SWINTON SOUGHT OUT PETER FALK!





HERE'S A MIRROR, FALK...
LOOK AT YOURSELF!
STEVE WAS RIGHT!
YOU CAST NO
REFLECTION!

TAKE
IT
AWAY!



THE...THE **WITCH MEN!**
AND YOU'RE ONE
OF THEM!

WE'LL HAVE YOUR **BLOOD...**
DOWN AT THE CAIRN
OF ROCKS...



THE SUN
IS COMING
UP...

THEN YOUR LIFE IS PROLONGED
ONE DAY! FOR WE KILL ONLY AT
NIGHT... THE WITCHMEN WALK
ONLY IN DARKNESS!



WITH THE COMING OF THE SUN, THE WEIRD
FIGURES DISAPPEARED! SWINTON WAS LEFT
ALONE... AND HE HURRIED TO THE TOOLSHED
NEAR THE OLD HOUSE...

LUCKY I HAD THIS
DYNAMITE FOR
BLOWING OUT STUMPS!
I'LL DESTROY THE
ROCK CAIRN AND THE
WITCHMEN WILL
BE DEFEATED!



AS THE PILE EXPLODED, SWINTON
SEEMED TO SEE A STRANGE
FIGURE RISING ABOVE THE
FLAME, AND HE HEARD A
SHRILL, KEENING SCREAM
AS OF UNWORLDLY AGONY!



A SKELETON... HOLDING A KNIFE...
LIKE THE ONE FALK HAD! I DON'T
THINK FALK WILL EVER COME
BACK... BUT IF HE EVER DOES,
I WON'T BE HERE!

19 THE
END

INSIDE THE DOORWAY THERE WERE LIGHTS, MUSIC THE LILTING LAUGHTER OF WOMEN! BUT WHAT SEEMED LIKE A **PALACE OF PLEASURE** WAS REALLY A YAWNING PIT OF **HELL!!!**



WHY... WHY SHE'S **GONE!** BUT... I... I **MUST** SEE HER AGAIN!



IN THAT BRIEF MOMENT EVERYTHING ABOUT HER HAD BEEN BRANDED INTO DAVE ROBBINS' BRAIN AND HER SEARING IMAGE URGED HIM INTO AN UNKNOWN PLACE...

GOOD EVENING, SIR... WELCOME TO THE "FRIENDSHIP CLUB" WHERE MEN CAN SEE THEIR DREAMS COME **TRUE!** FIVE DOLLARS FOR NEW MEMBERS!

SURE, SURE... OKAY, HERE!



FINALLY HE SAW HER AGAIN, AND HER LAUGH
RIPPLED HIS BLOOD LIKE A SUBTLE POISON!

OH, RAY...
HA-HA-HA!

I MUST TALK
TO HER... I'LL
CUT IN...



SCRAM, BUDDY! THERE'S
NO CUTTING IN WITH
MY GIRL!



HUMILIATED, AND IN FRONT OF HER, TOO, HE
STALKED FROM THE FLOOR AND BLACK
THOUGHTS SEETHED IN HIS BRAIN...

THAT BIG APE HASN'T
SEEN THE LAST
OF ME! I'LL...

MAY I HAVE
A LIGHT,
PLEASE!

HUH?



YOU MUSTN'T MIND RAY...
HE'S AN OLD FRIEND,
AND LIKES TO THINK
HE'S MY WATCHDOG!

WELL, PERHAPS
SOMEBODY OUGHT
TO MUZZLE
THAT DOG!



BY THE WAY, I'M DAWN
LEE! I DON'T BELIEVE
I'VE SEEN YOU AT THE
CLUB BEFORE!

I'M DAVE ROBBINS,
AND I JOINED THIS
CLUB TONIGHT, THE
MOMENT I SAW YOU
IN THE DOORWAY!



SOON SHE WAS IN HIS ARMS, AND HER STEP WAS
AS LIGHT AS AN AUTUMN LEAF... OR AS LIGHT AS
A GHOSTS!

WHAT IS A GIRL AS BEAUTIFUL
AS YOU DOING AT A
FRIENDSHIP CLUB?
SURELY YOU HAVE
NO TROUBLE WITH
YOUR FACE!

PERHAPS, DAVE YOU
DO NOT SEE THE
REAL ME! PERHAPS
I'M A BEAUTIFUL
VISION IN YOUR
IMAGINATION! HA-HA!



THAT LAUGH AGAIN...MYSTERIOUS...AS FRAGILE AS ICE FALLING AND TINKLING ON A PAVEMENT...AND SOMEHOW AS COLD AS A CEMETERY WIND! BUT SOON SHE HAD TO LEAVE...



DAVE ROBBINS COULDN'T GET HER OUT OF HIS MIND! SHE WAS HIS GOAL, AND HE SET OUT TO OWN HER...

SHE'S SO STRANGELY BEAUTIFUL! WE'D LOOK SPLENDID AS MAN AND WIFE! IT MUST BE AT ANY COST!



BUT SOON HE SAW SOMETHING THAT STABBED AT HIS HEART WITH THE COLD FURY OF A MURDERER'S KNIFE!



THRU THE LONG, BITTER HOURS HE WAITED, THEN...

GOOD NIGHT, RAY... THANKS FOR THE LOVELY TIME!

AND DON'T FORGET, DAWN... I'VE GOT TO HAVE YOUR ANSWER SOON! I'M AS RICH AS I'M NOT HANDSOME...AND I CAN GIVE YOU **EVERYTHING** MONEY CAN BUY!



RAY STARTED HOME, AND A CAR SLITHERED AWAY FROM THE CURB...



NO...NO! AAAHHH!



THERE WAS A DULL THUD ON THE BUMPER...
THE SCREAMING WAS OVER AND A CAR
SPED AWAY LEAVING **DEATH** AS ITS WAKE!



FOR SEVERAL DAYS DAVE ROBBINS KEPT HIM-
SELF LOCKED IN HIS ROOM, HIS CAR LOCKED
IN THE GARAGE, AND A SECRET LOCKED IN HIS
HEART! FINALLY HE CALLED HER AND SHE
CONSENTED TO MEET HIM...

DAWN--HOW WONDERFUL
IT IS TO SEE YOUR
BEAUTIFUL FACE AGAIN!
LET'S WALK IN THE PARK...
I--I MUST TELL YOU
SOMETHING!

ALL RIGHT,
DAVE...WHAT-
EVER YOU
WISH!



LISTEN TO ME, DAWN...
LISTEN TO WHAT I'VE
DONE BECAUSE OF YOU!
IT WAS I WHO KILLED RAY!
I COULDN'T LET ANYONE
STAND BETWEEN US!
AND YOU'VE GOT TO
MARRY ME!

OF COURSE I WILL,
DARLING--ONLY
YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO **KILL RAY!**
I'D NEVER MARRY
AN **UGLY MAN**!
LIKE HIM! IT'S
YOUR **HAND-
SOME** FACE, I
WANT NEXT
TO MINE!



SHE NEVER BLINKED AN EYE...HER COLD LIPS
BLENDED WITH HIS AND HER ARMS CIRCLED
HIS NECK LIKE SILENT, PALE SNAKES...



YOU...YOUR
CHEEK IS SO
COLD!

IT'S THE NIGHT AIR, MY
DARLING! NEVER MIND THAT!
JUST TELL ME WHEN WE'LL
BE MARRIED!



LIFE MOVED FAST AFTER THAT NIGHT! SOON THE TWO OF THEM STOOD BEFORE THE MAN WHO WOULD UNITE THEM FOR LIFE!



...AND DO YOU, DAVE, TAKE THIS WOMAN DAWN...

AREN'T THEY THE MOST STRIKING COUPLE YOU'VE EVER SEEN?

ALMOST TOO GOOD LOOKING TO BE TRUE!

AND THEN, DAVE CARRIED HIS BRIDE HOME! HE HAD SUCCEEDED, AND THIS UNMATCHABLE BEAUTY WAS HIS! BUT THERE WAS STILL A SECRET HE HAD TO TELL...ONE SECRET THAT COULD WAIT NO LONGER...



I SUPPOSE, DAWN, YOU'VE WONDERED WHY THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANOTHER WOMAN IN MY LIFE... WHY I SOUGHT YOU AT THE **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**! I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING!

DAVE... YOU FRIGHTEN ME... WHAT IS IT?



YOU SEE, DARLING, THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR! HAH-HA-HA!



NOW COME HERE!

OF COURSE, DAVE... I'M YOUR **WIFE**! BUT, DEAR, HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHY ONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS I HAVE NEVER MARRIED? BEFORE YOU KISS ME LET ME TELL YOU MY SECRET!



THE GIRL WHO NEVER SHUDDERED WHEN SHE LEARNED OF RAY'S DEATH...WHO DIDN'T TURN HER HEAD WHEN SHE SAW THE HORROR OF DAVE'S FACE, WHIPPED A HAND TO HER BEATIFUL FACE...AND WITH A GENTLE, URGING VOICE---

NOW, DAVE... AREN'T YOU GOING TO KISS YOUR WIFE?



THE END

DAVID KANE HAD EVERYTHING A MAN COULD WANT... WEALTH... POSITION... POWER! ANYBODY WOULD HAVE BEEN EAGER TO CHANGE PLACES WITH HIM! AND HE WOULD HAVE... FOR HE COULDN'T ENJOY ALL THIS WORLDLY SUCCESS... HE WAS BEING FORCED TO RETIRE FROM HIS ACTIVE LIFE BECAUSE OF A BAD HEART... IN SHORT, HE WAS---

BETTER OFF DEAD!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME? YOU'RE ONE OF THE BIGGEST SPECIALISTS... IF YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME... WHO CAN?

I'M AFRAID NOBODY CAN!

LOOK AT YOUR CARDIOGRAPH! YOU'RE LIVING ON **BORROWED TIME**, MR. KANE!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THAT I CAN POP OFF ANY SECOND?

DON'T TAKE IT LIKE THAT, SON! YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT OUT ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES... WITH PROPER CARE YOU MAY OUTLIVE ME!

BUT HOW ELSE COULD DAVID KANE TAKE THE NEWS? HOW DID THE DOCTOR EXPECT A MAN OF DRIVE AND AMBITION TO JUST STOP COMPLETELY? IT WAS LIKE CUTTING OFF HIS RIGHT ARM! TO STOP NOW WAS TO... WELL, TO STOP LIVING!

THIS IS WHAT I WORKED AND SLAVED FOR... BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT? NOW IT'S LIKE A **TOMB!**

I BUILT THIS UP WITH MY OWN HANDS--AND WHAT FOR? I'D TRADE IT ALL RIGHT NOW FOR A **GOOD HEART!**



BUT THE DOCTOR WAS RIGHT! WITH THE PROPER REST AND CARE THERE WAS NO TELLING HOW LONG DAVID KANE COULD LIVE! AND A FEW MONTHS LATER...

HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE, SIR! REMEMBER WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID ABOUT BEING ON TIME WITH YOUR MEDICINE!

OH, ALL RIGHT, THOMAS... JUST PUT IT ON THAT TABLE! I'LL TAKE IT IN A FEW MINUTES!

HE STARED AT THE ELIXIR AND THEN ALL THOSE MONTHS OF INACTIVITY SUDDENLY WELLED UP INSIDE HIM... HE HAD TO BLOW OFF STEAM SOME WAY...

I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIFE ANY LONGER! I'D BE BETTER OFF **DEAD** THAN DOOMED TO A LIFE OF MEDICINES AND REST!



THE EMOTIONAL OUTBURST PASSED AND DAVID SETTLED DOWN... UNTIL HE MET BOB WHITE, AN OLD FRIEND WHOM HE KNEW TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE SAME AILMENT...

BOB! LONG TIME NO SEE! WHAT'S WITH THE TENNIS RACKET? THOUGHT YOU WERE SUFFERING FROM A BAD HEART?

THAT'S ALL OVER! NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE!

BUT HOW? I'VE BEEN TO THE BEST SPECIALISTS... A CURE IS IMPOSSIBLE! IF YOU KNOW THE NAME OF ANOTHER DOCTOR YOU'VE **GOT** TO TELL ME!

WELL, HE'S NOT REALLY A DOCTOR... AND HIS METHODS ARE STRANGE... BUT THEY **WORK!** I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HIM!



DAVID KANE HAD NO CHOICE! WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE IF THE METHODS WERE STRANGE... IF THE MAN WASN'T A DOCTOR? IF HE COULD CURE THE BAD HEART THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERED! AFTER ALL... WHAT DID HE HAVE TO LOSE?

THE APPOINTMENT WAS MADE AND DAVID KANE EAGERLY MADE HIS APPEARANCE AT THE ODD-LOOKING OFFICE...

MR. ER--GRUNDEC?

YES! AH, I SEE YOU'RE ON TIME! GOOD... WE CAN GO TO WORK AT ONCE!



YES, YES, JUST AS YOU DESCRIBED... BAD... BUT I CAN FIX YOU UP! MR. WHITE PROBABLY TOLD YOU... MY METHODS ARE A BIT OUT OF THE ORDINARY!

I DON'T CARE! I JUST WANT TO GET THIS BUM TICKER FIXED!



DAVID KANE WAS WILLING TO SUBMIT TO ANYTHING... AND SO THE STRANGE OPERATION BEGAN! AN OPERATION THAT MEDICAL SCIENCE SAID WAS IMPOSSIBLE!

HMM... YES THAT'S RIGHT... NOW THIS GOES TO THE AORTA... NOW I'VE GOT IT!



HOURS LATER...

JUST A LITTLE LONGER NOW... JUST ONE MORE CONNECTION TO BE MADE! THERE... THAT DOES IT!



AND FINALLY IT WAS OVER...

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I MUST ADMIT IT'S A STRANGE FEELING, BUT I'LL GET USED TO IT! JUST SO LONG AS I'M IN PERFECT SHAPE!



OF COURSE, NOBODY WILL BELIEVE THIS... BUT I'M LIVING PROOF THAT YOU'VE CURED MY HEART CONDITION... I CAN LIVE AGAIN!

JUST ACT THE WAY YOU ALWAYS DID... YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! OF COURSE THERE MAY BE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS I TOLD YOU ABOUT... BUT YOU'RE **NORMAL** IN EVERY RESPECT!



WELL... ALMOST EVERY RESPECT!

QUICKLY DAVID RETURNED TO HIS OLD WAYS... AND WITH A VENGEANCE!

THAT WASN'T THE ONLY TYPE OF ACTIVITY HE INDULGED IN... HE WAS OUT TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME!

HOW ABOUT THAT! TWO HUNDRED YARDS RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE!

MORE CHAMPAGNE, BABY... I'VE GOT A LOT OF LIVING TO MAKE UP!

YOU BET... IT SURE IS GOOD TO GO OUT WITH A MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO LIVE!

I'D NEVER BELIEVE IT IF I DIDN'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES! A MONTH AGO YOU WERE PRACTICALLY BED-RIDDEN WITH A **BAD HEART**... AND NOW LOOK AT YOU... WHY YOU'RE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN I AM!



LIFE WAS ONCE AGAIN PERFECT TO DAVID KANE, AND WHY SHOULDN'T IT BE? BUT THEN, ONE DAY HE NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENING TO HIS REFLEXES! FOR SOME UNACCOUNTABLE REASON HIS EVERY ACTION WAS SPEEDED UP!



BUT, REMEMBERING GRUNDEL'S WARNING, HE QUICKLY RETURNED TO THE STRANGE SANATORIUM FOR HIS, ER, ADJUSTMENT!

ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYTHING JUST SPEEDED UP... I WAS RUNNING INSTEAD OF WALKING, READING A BOOK IN HALF AN HOUR!

HMM, JUST AS I THOUGHT... THERE, THAT DOES IT!

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! I JUST HAVE TO MAKE A MINOR ADJUSTMENT ON YOUR **HEART**!



TIME PASSED AND WORD OF KANE'S COMPLETE RECOVERY GOT BACK TO DR. BISHOP! IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO BELIEVE THE MIRACLE...

AMAZING! COMPLETE RECOVERY! WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THIS, ER, **QUACK** WHO PERFORMED THE OPERATION?

GRUNDEL! I'LL GIVE YOU HIS PHONE NUMBER! AND HE'S NO **QUACK**! HE DID SOMETHING YOU COULDN'T DO... **FIXED MY HEART!**



ONCE AGAIN EVERYTHING WAS FINE... EXCEPT A FEW DAYS LATER...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAVID? CAN'T YOU KEEP UP WITH ME? YOU'RE WALKING SO SLOW!

I... DON'T... KNOW... WHAT'S... WRONG... I... JUST... CAN'T... SEEM... TO... MOVE... ANY... FASTER! I'VE... JUST... SEEMED... TO... RUN... DOWN...



THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN WHO COULD SOLVE THIS... **GRUNDEL!**

I'M... IN... A... STATE... OF... SLOW... MOTION... EVERYTHING... I DO... IS... AT... THIS... SLOW... RATE...

DON'T FRET, MR. KANE! I WAS AFRAID I HAD MADE TO LARGE AN ADJUSTMENT THE OTHER DAY... WE'LL HAVE YOU FIXED UP IN NO TIME AT ALL! **YOUR TICKER** WILL BE AS GOOD AS NEW!

YES, JUST AS I THOUGHT.. THERE! NOW WE'VE SET IT.. RIGHT!



EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT NOW...OR AT LEAST IT SEEMED SO! BUT A FEW DAYS LATER, DR. BISHOP RECEIVED A DISASTEROUS PHONE CALL...A STRANGE PHONE CALL!

WHAT? KANE IS DEAD! IT CAN'T BE! AND YOU SAY HIS HEART IS... **NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!** I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH THAT GRUNDEL MAN! MAYBE HE CAN STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT!

A SHORT TIME LATER THE TWO MEN WERE STARING DOWN AT THE STILL FORM OF DAVID KANE, **ROBOT!**

NOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN THIS?

I TRIED TO REPLACE HIS **BAD HEART** WITH A GOOD ONE I MADE! GUESS I MADE A MISTAKE THOUGH, I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT WHEN IT KEPT GOING FASTER AND SLOWER-- IT TURNED OUT TO BE A **BUM TICKER**, TOO!



MONSTERS FOR RENT...

IT WAS ONLY A CHEAP PUBLICITY STUNT, BUT IT LED TO TERROR AND DEATH! CALL IT THE CASE OF THE GRUESOME GIMMICK...



BUSINESS WAS TERRIBLE AT LOON LAKE—AND SAM AND LORNA COX WERE FAST GOING BROKE...

IT'S NO USE, SAM! WE OWE EVERYBODY, AND THE SUMMER CUSTOMERS ARE STAYING AWAY IN DROVES!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE LICKED, BABY! NO CUSTOMERS, NO MONEY! IF ONLY WE COULD THINK OF SOMETHING—A GIMMICK OF SOME KIND!

HEY! DID I SAY GIMMICK? HERE IT IS—MAYBE JUST WHAT WE NEED! A SEA MONSTER!

A W-WHAT?



A FEW DAYS LATER...

SEE, BABY! ONCE I PUT THIS IN THE LAKE, WE'LL GET PLENTY OF ATTENTION! PEOPLE WILL FLOCK TO SEE IT! NO REASON WHY THAT PLACE IN SCOTLAND SHOULD HAVE THE ONLY SEA MONSTER!

IT'S — UGH — UGLY ENOUGH.

PRETTY CUTE! I CAN MANIPULATE IT BY THIS REMOTE CONTROL GADGET! WE'LL SCARE A LOT OF FOLKS — AND MAKE A LOT OF DOUGH!



A WEEK PASSES AND THEN...

NO FISH BITING TODAY!

I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE — SO BORING!



SUDDENLY...

EEEEEEK — LOOK!

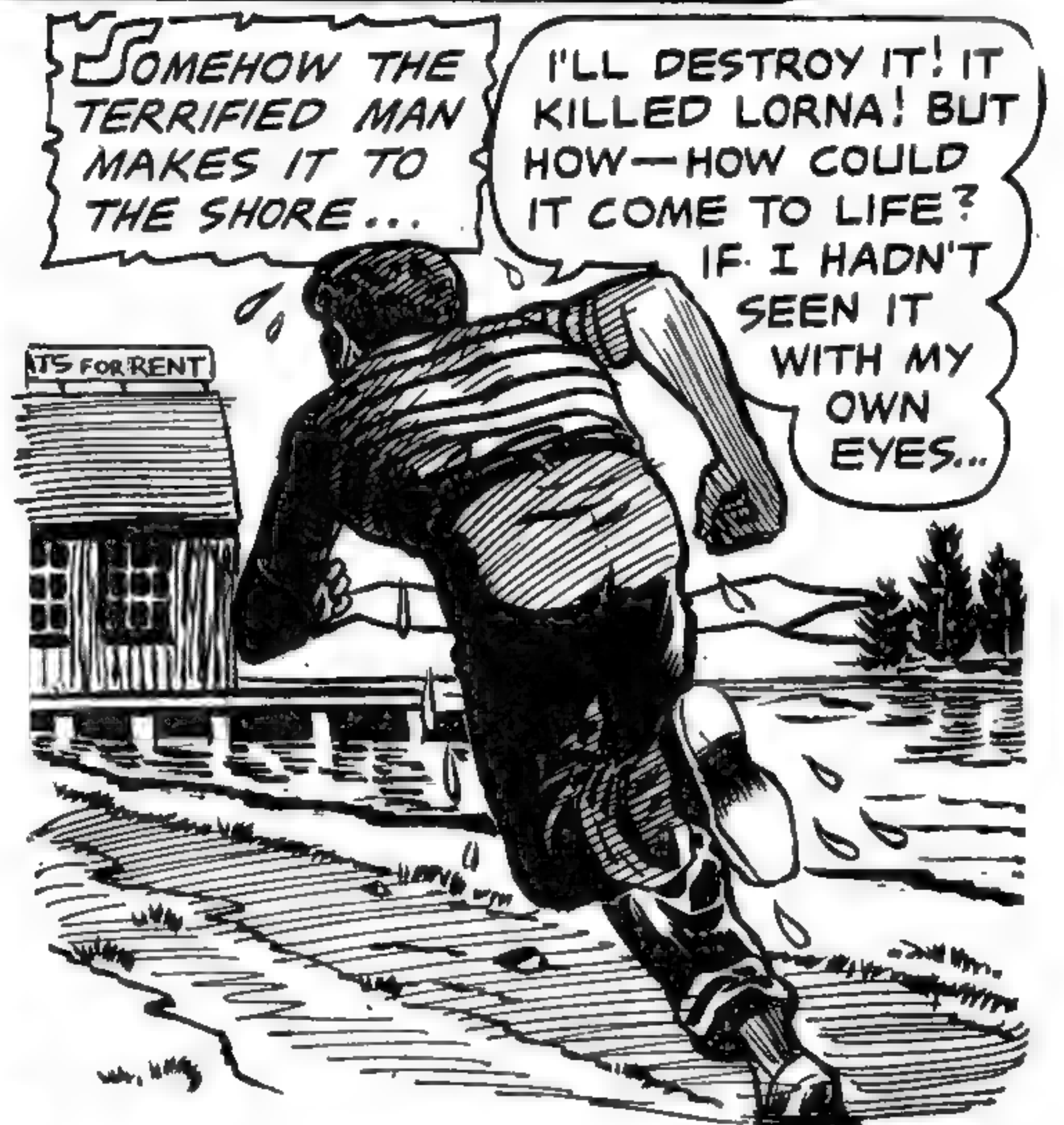
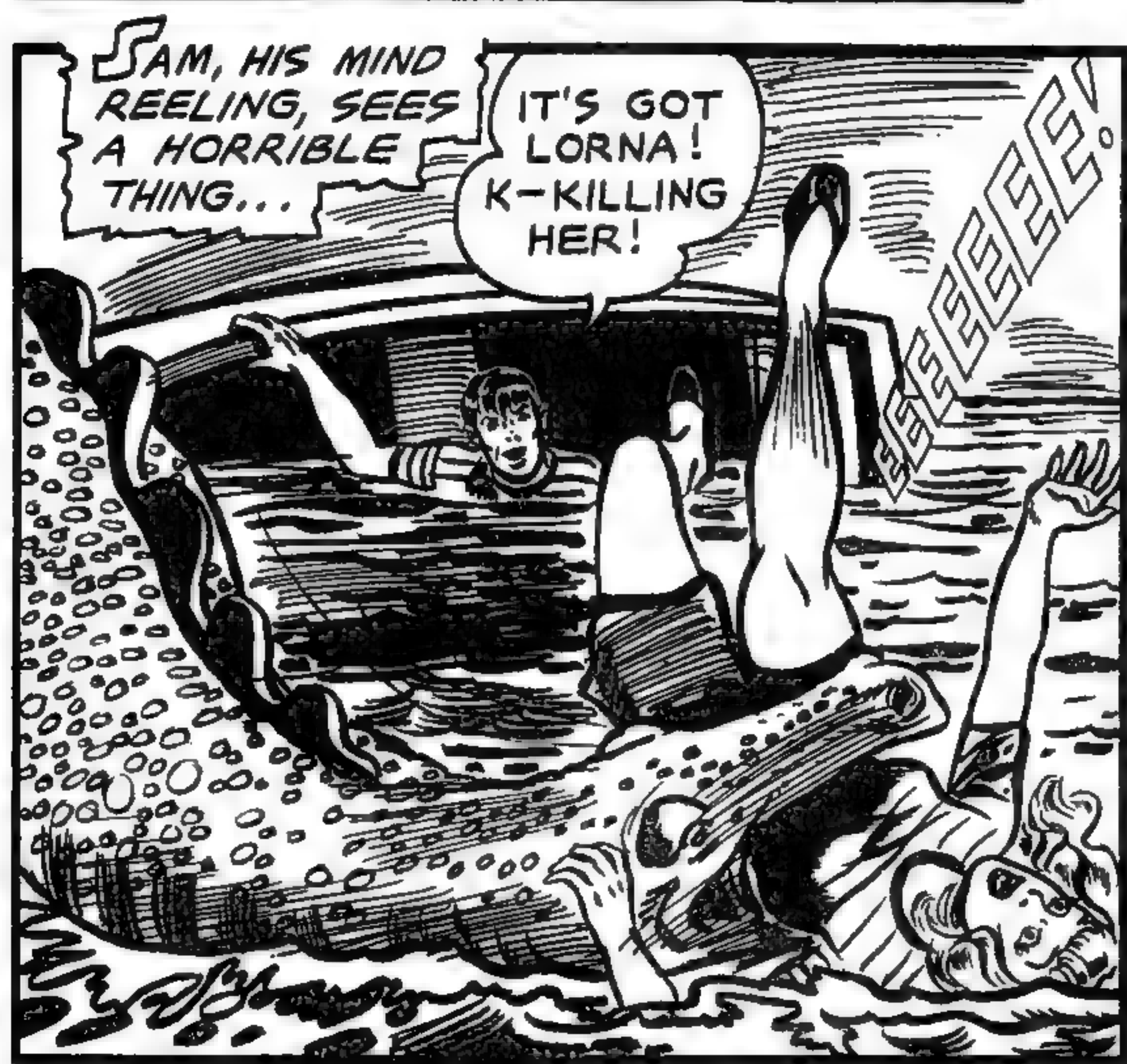


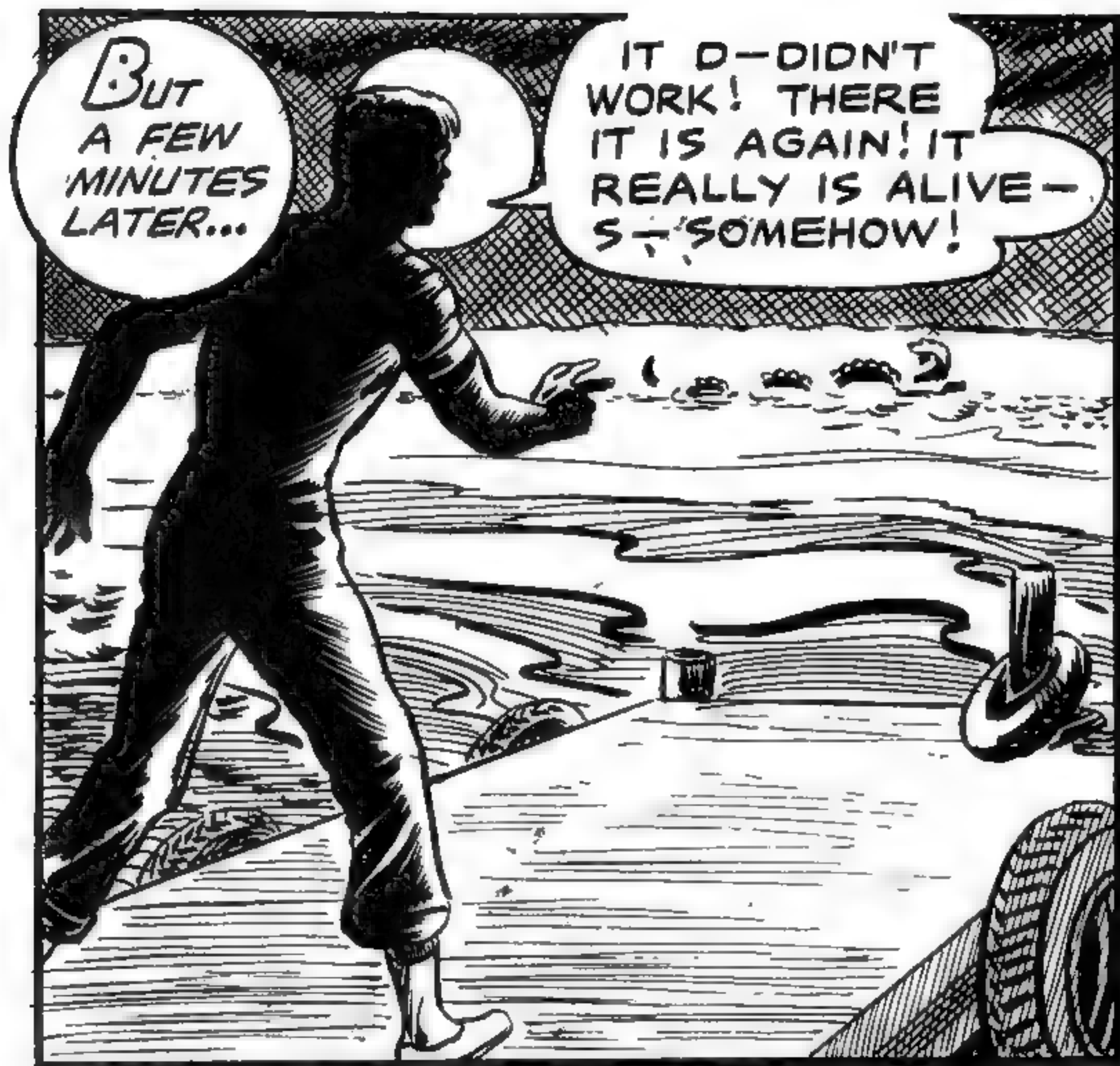
OHHHH — A SEA MONSTER!

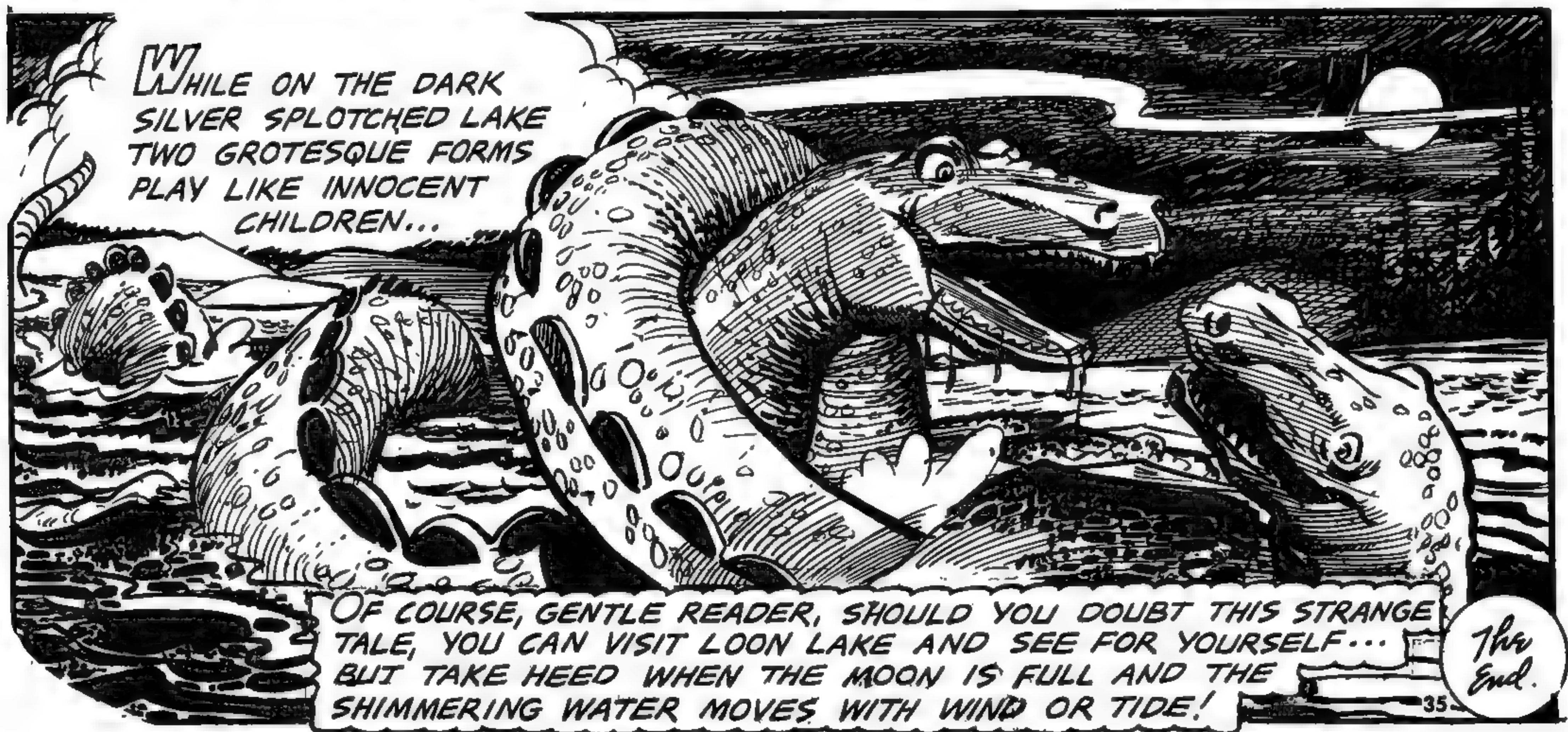
GREAT SCOTT, WHAT A HORROR!











House of CHILLS

TERROR ROLLED LIKE FOG THROUGH THE NARROW STREETS AND THE GOOD FOLK OF MUNSTER-SCHLOSS LIVED IN DEADLY FEAR OF THE HUMAN WOLVES THAT ROVED THE NIGHT! DEATH—AND WORSE—WAS EVERYWHERE! YET NONE COULD REALLY KNOW OF THE EERIE AND TERRIBLE DEEDS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE HOUSE THAT HORROR BUILT...



ON A NEARBY STREET...

IN 1815, AFTER THE NAPOLEONIC WARS, HUNGER STALKED THE VILLAGE OF MUNSTER-SCHLOSS...

GET AWAY, YOU CUR! THE BONE IS MINE!

THERE IS NO FOOD IN ALL GERMANY! WE WILL ALL STARVE SOON!

GRRRR-



GET UP, YOU LAZY BEAST! UP, I SAY! YOU ARE LUCKY, AT LEAST YOU CAN EAT GRASS! WHILE I STARVE!



WHILE IN THE HOME OF ADOLF, THE MISER...

HEH-HEH—ANOTHER ONE! THERE WILL BE MEAT TONIGHT—FOR THOSE WHO CAN PAY! **KARL! KARL**, YOU FOOL!



HURRY, YOU FOOL! THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE! A HORSE TO BE FETCHED TO THE CASTLE TONIGHT!

ANOTHER ONE! GOOD! I WILL SHARPEN MY CLEAVER AND KNIFE WELL! **HAH-HAH...**

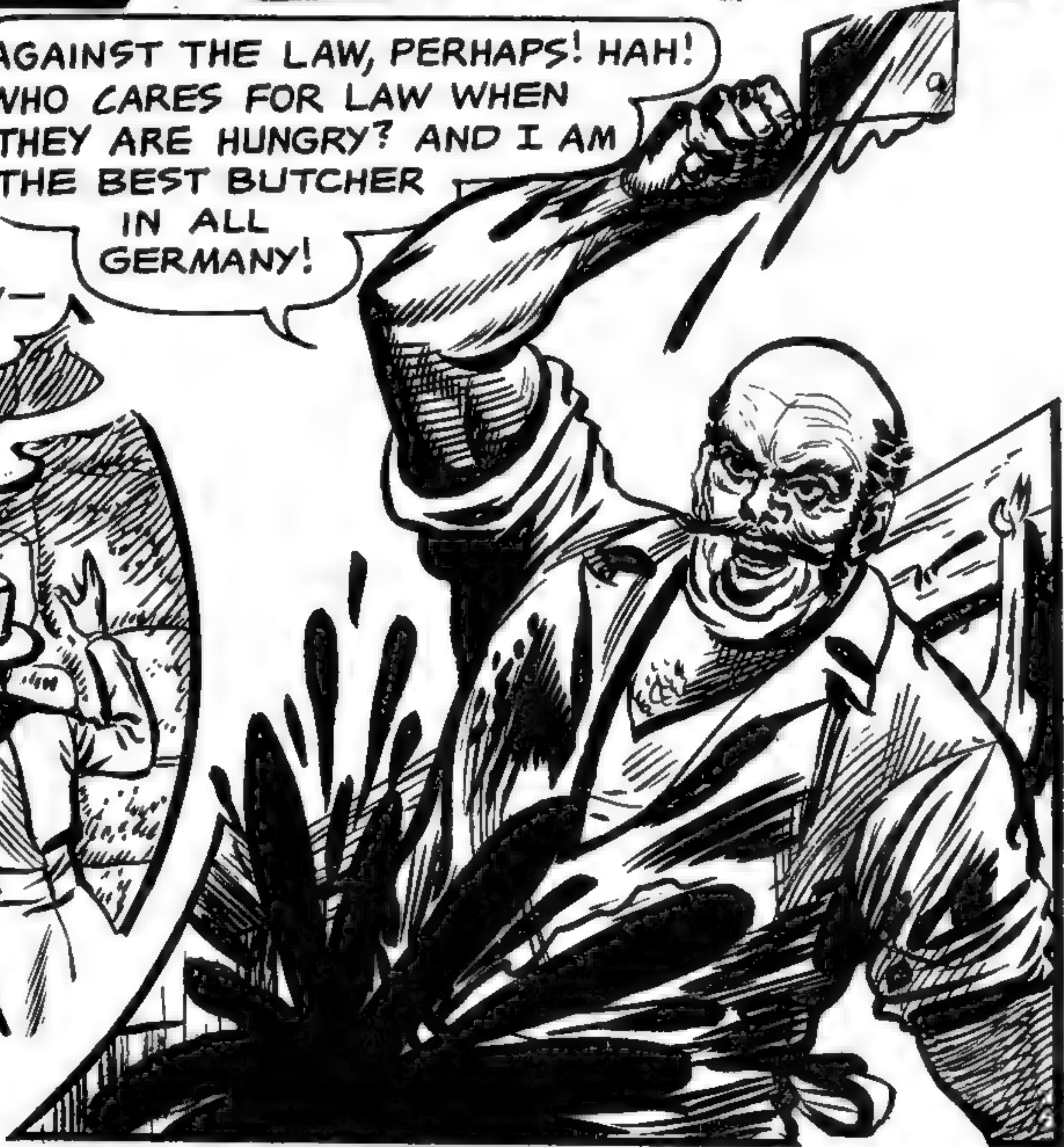


SO LATE THAT NIGHT AT AN OLD CASTLE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

SEE, ADOLF, HOW STRONG I AM! **HO-HO!**

FOOL! IDIOT! MAKE HASTE! YOU KNOW IT IS AGAINST THE LAW—WHAT WE DO!

AGAINST THE LAW, PERHAPS! **HAH!** WHO CARES FOR LAW WHEN THEY ARE HUNGRY? AND I AM THE BEST BUTCHER IN ALL GERMANY!



THE RUMOR SPREAD AND ALL NIGHT THE OLD CASTLE WAS VISITED BY HUNGRY PEOPLE...

I M-MUST GO! YOU HAVE BEEN WELL PAID!

FAREWELL, MY FRIEND! TELL EVERYONE! BUT THEY MUST HURRY!



AND LATER...

FATHER! ARE YOU IN THERE, FATHER?

A GOOD NIGHT INDEED! **HAH—** THERE IS GRETCHEN NOW!

IN HERE, MY CHILD! COME IN!



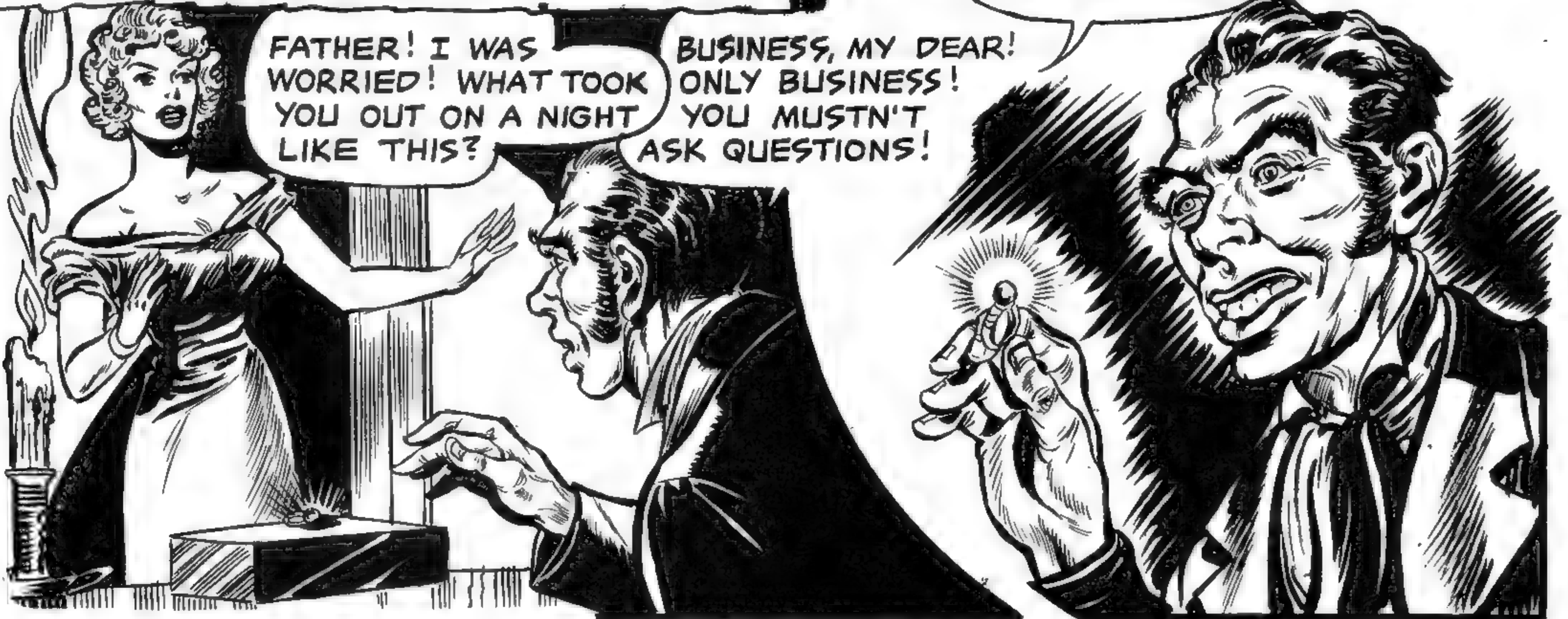
IN ALL THE WORLD THERE IS BUT ONE THING THAT THE MISER LOVES—HIS DAUGHTER GRETCHEN! SWEET AND INNOCENT, SHE DOES NOT SUSPECT THE GREED AND FIERCE CRUELTY THAT LURK IN HIS HEART...

HERE! A PRESENT FOR YOU!

A GOLD RING!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

FATHER! I WAS WORRIED! WHAT TOOK YOU OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?

BUSINESS, MY DEAR! ONLY BUSINESS! YOU MUSTN'T ASK QUESTIONS!



WHERE DID YOU GET IT, FATHER?

A MAN, DEAR! HE HAD NO MONEY AND SO— NEVER MIND! TO BED WITH YOU!

GOODNIGHT, FATHER! YOU'RE THE NICEST MAN IN ALL THE WORLD!

HEH-HEH—THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU, MY CHILD! NOW BE OFF!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE, THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT AGREE...

IT IS ADOLF WHO SELLS THE MEAT! NO DOUBT OF DOUBT! I COULD JAIL HIM TOMORROW, BUT I KEEP ASKING MYSELF IF THAT WOULD BE WISE...

AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULD I NOT HAVE SOME OF THE PROFITS FROM THIS BUSINESS! YES! I WILL SEE ADOLF, THE MISER IN THE MORNING!



AND THE NEXT DAY...

SO YOU SEE, ADOLF, YOU HAVE BROKEN THE LAW! THERE IS A LONG PRISON SENTENCE FOR SELLING, ER, A CERTAIN KIND OF MEAT! SUCH ANIMALS ARE PROTECTED!

YOU HAVE NO PROOF!

PROOF? BAH—I HAVE ALL I NEED! I SHALL HAVE TO TO ARREST YOU—UNLESS...

UNLESS?

SOME OF YOUR GOLD, OLD MISER! A FAIR SHARE IMMEDIATELY!

BLACKMAIL! I WILL NEVER PAY! NOBODY TAKES MY GOLD FROM ME!

I WILL HAVE IT! YOU OLD FOOL! I'LL SEARCH UNTIL I FIND IT AND SEND YOU TO PRISON, TOO!

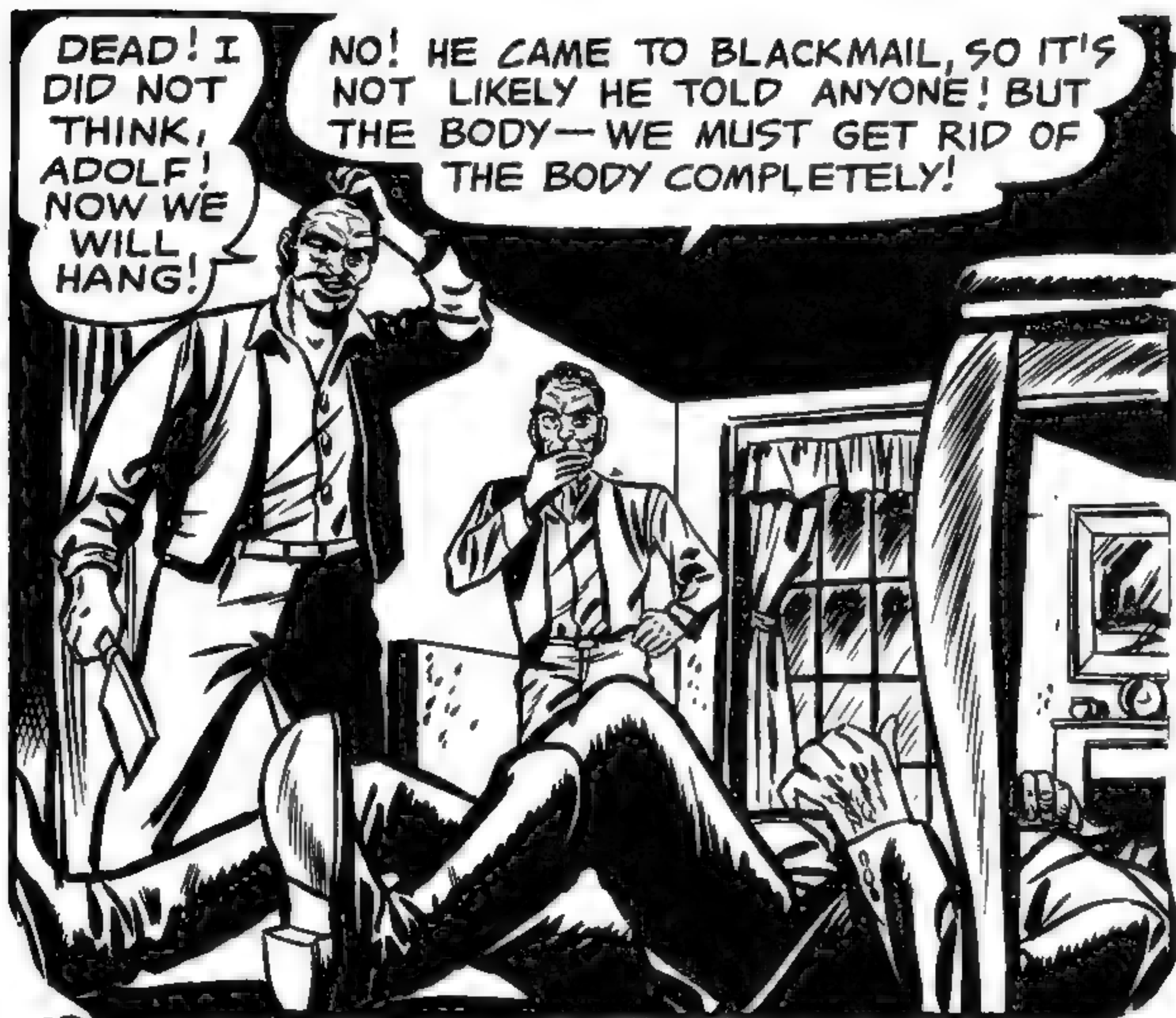
NEVER!

SUDDENLY...

KARL! THAT CLEAVER—NO...

IT IS SHARP, FOOL! I AM A GOOD BUTCHER!

YOU WILL TELL NO ONE! HAH-HAH-HAH!



DEAD! I DID NOT THINK, ADOLF! NOW WE WILL HANG!

NO! HE CAME TO BLACKMAIL, SO IT'S NOT LIKELY HE TOLD ANYONE! BUT THE BODY—WE MUST GET RID OF THE BODY COMPLETELY!

THE HORRIBLE THOUGHT COMES LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING...

KARL! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM THINKING?

Y-YES! BUT WE CAN'T! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE!



HORRIBLE, EH? HANGING IS WORSE! TAKE HIM TO THE CASTLE TONIGHT!

Y-YES, ADOLF! TONIGHT!



HURRY, ADOLF! I—I AM UNEASY!

FOOL! WE WILL BE RICHER THAN EVER! YOU WILL SEE!



I HAVE A PLAN, MY BUTCHER! THERE ARE NO MORE HORSES TO BE HAD, BUT...

NO, ADOLF! YOU ARE MAD! THIS ONCE, TO SAVE OUR NECKS, BUT NO MORE!



YES, FOOL! YES! WHO WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE? WE START RIGHT AWAY! NOW GET ON WITH THIS ONE!

SO THE PILE OF GOLD MOUNTED AND MOUNTED AS THE DAYS PASSED...



SOON I WILL HAVE ENOUGH! THEN GRETCHEN AND I WILL GO AWAY— AFTER I TAKE CARE OF THAT FOOL KARL!

AND FOR THE ONE THING HE LOVED HE BOUGHT JEWELS OF EVERY KIND...



FATHER IS SO KIND! I WONDER WHY THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN WHISPER AGAINST HIM?

BUT OF ALL MY GIFTS, I LIKE THE RING BEST! DEAR FATHER!



WHILE OVER THE VILLAGE THERE CREPT THE CHILL OF DEATH! THE POLICE WERE HELPLESS WHILE TERROR WAITED IN EVERY CORNER...



AND THOSE WHO VENTURED OUT...

SO Q-QUIET! EVERYONE LOCKED IN THEIR HOUSES!



...DID SO AT THEIR PERIL...

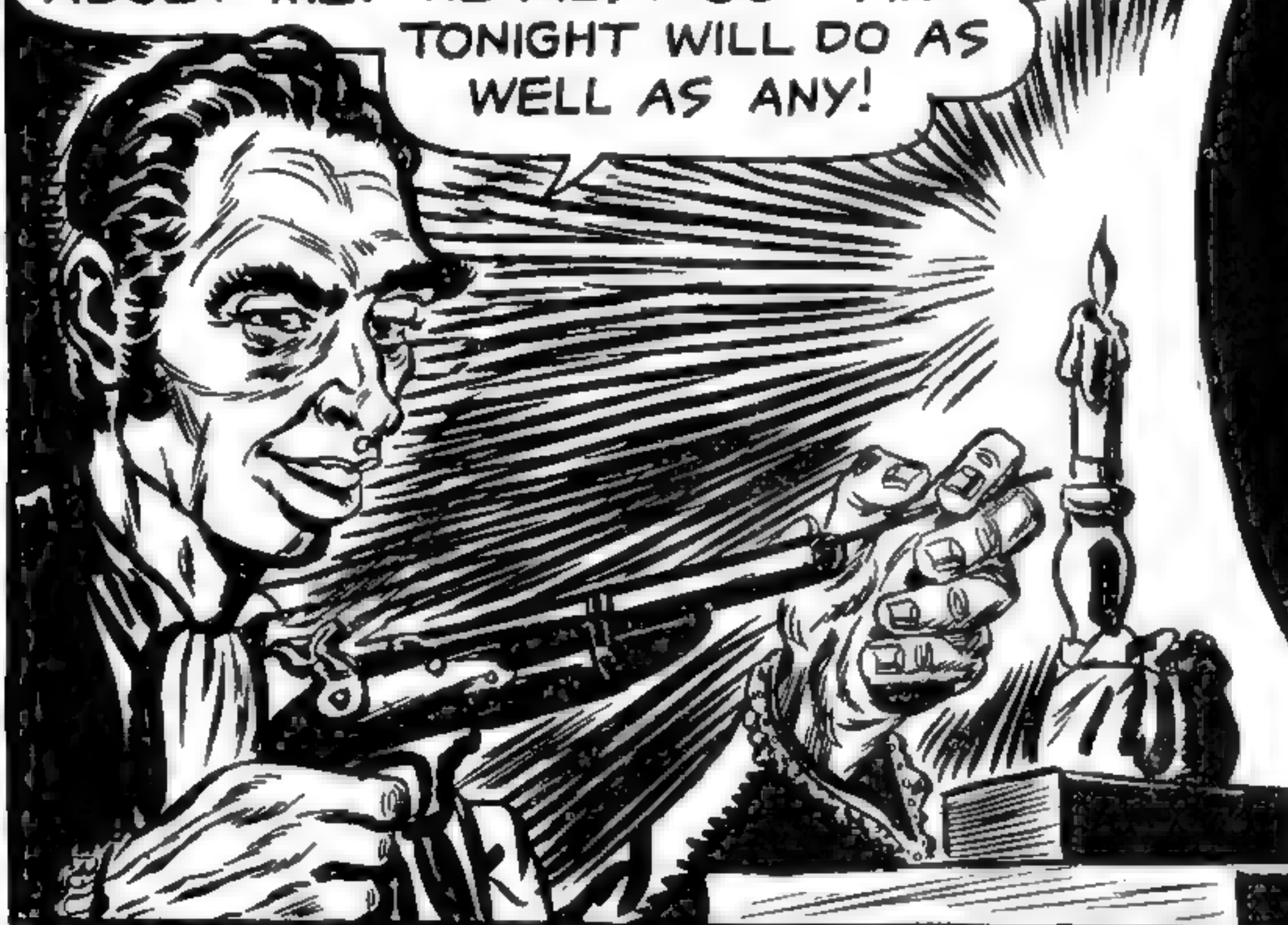
GAAAAA—

ANOTHER ONE! ADOLF WILL BE PLEASED TONIGHT!



BUT AS THE DAYS PASSED AND THE PROFITS GREW, THE MISER GREW UNEASY...

I HAVE ENOUGH GOLD! AND KARL IS DANGEROUS, HE KNOWS TOO MUCH ABOUT ME! HE MUST GO— AND TONIGHT WILL DO AS WELL AS ANY!



I MUST GO TO THE CASTLE! BETTER TELL GRETCHEN SO SHE WILL NOT BE WORRIED! SOON WE WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE FOREVER!



GONE! WELL, NO MATTER! SHE MUST BE WITH ONE OF HER FRIENDS! I CAN FINISH MY, AHM, BUSINESS AND BE BACK BEFORE SHE RETURNS!



THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER VISIT THE OLD CASTLE! POOR KARL! HE WAS A STUPID FOOL TO TRUST ME!



I'LL MAKE IT QUICK! THEN HIDE ALL THE EVIDENCE, GET MY GOLD INTO A TRUNK AND TAKE GRETCHEN!



THEY'LL NEVER FIND US! AND GRETCHEN, SWEET CHILD, MUST NEVER SUSPECT WHAT A MONSTER HER FATHER HAS BEEN!



MINUTES LATER...

BUT KARL HEARS THE SLITHER OF FEET AND...

THERE IS KARL! SO
INDUSTRIOUS! I MUST
GET THIS OVER
QUICKLY!

ADOLF! YOU ALREADY!
PLEASE, NO! I DIDN'T
MEAN TO DO IT!

DO WHAT,
KARL?

I DIDN'T KNOW,
ADOLF! I DIDN'T
KNOW! IT WAS
DARK — I COULDN'T
SEE! NO! DON'T
SHOOT...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GIBBERING
ABOUT, FOOL! I CAME HERE TO DO—
THIS!

GAAAAAAA—

THERE! BUT WHAT WAS THE
FOOL SCREAMING ABOUT? AS
THOUGH HE'D MADE SOME
TERRIBLE MISTAKE...

THAT— NO!
EEEEEEEEEE—

DEVIL FLOWER

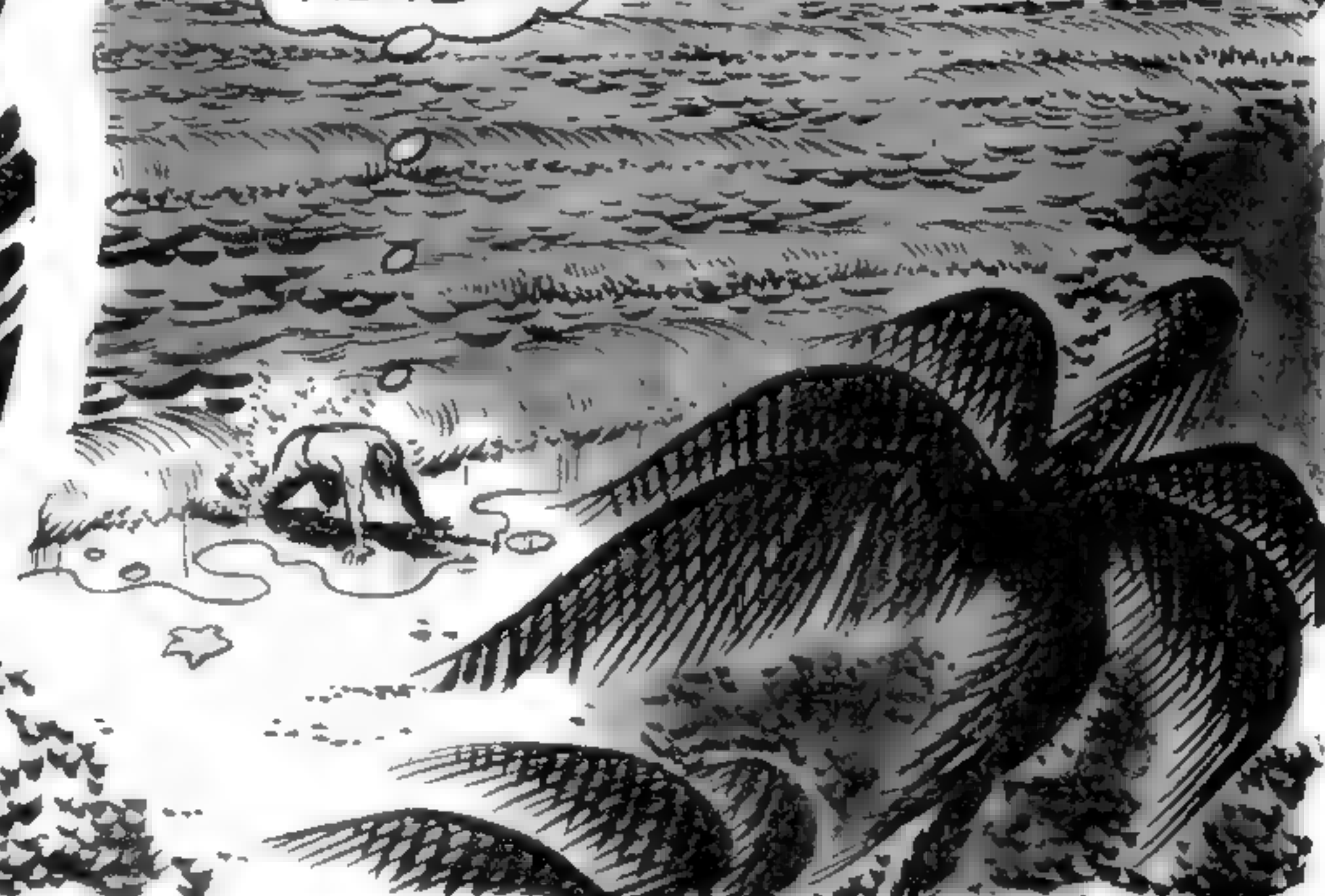
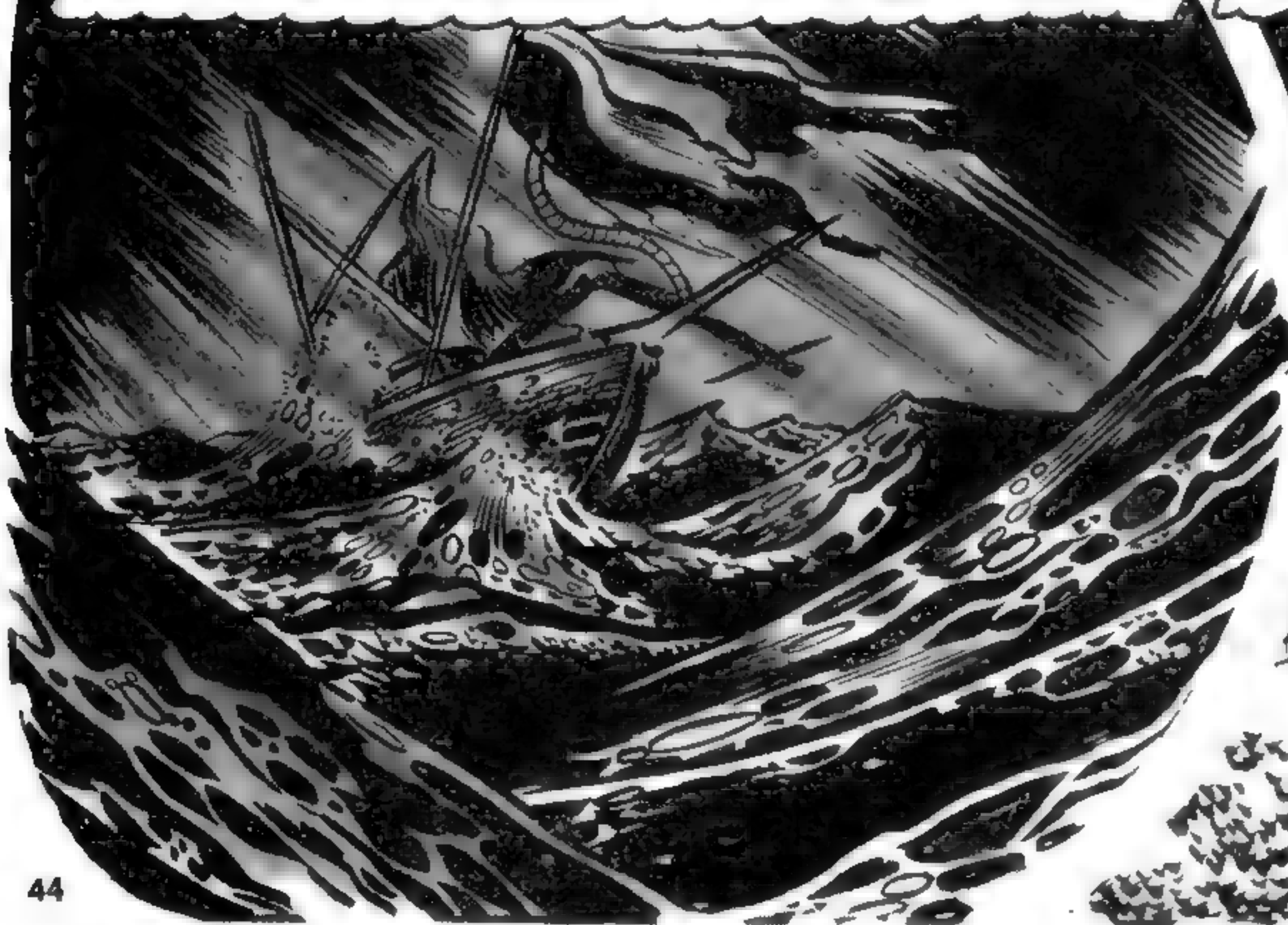


DEATH LURKED IN THE PETALS OF AN EVIL FLOWER, BUT WHO WAS THE MONSTER THAT KEPT THE VICIOUS BLOSSOM THRIVING? — FOR THIS INVOLVED TERRIFYING MASS MURDER!

THE STRANGE ADVENTURE BEGAN WHEN THE "DRIFTWIND", POUNDED BY SAVAGE SEAS, COULD NO LONGER REMAIN AFLOAT, AND AS SHE BEGAN TO LIST, SHE WAS PUTTING AN END TO WINSTON CREIG'S DREAM, OF REACHING A FRIENDLY TROPICAL SHORE...

STILL, AS IF BY SOME MIRACLE, WINSTON MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE, AND CRAWL OUT OF THE SURF...

THE BEACH! I MADE IT! I'M ALIVE!



TIME PASSED, BUT WINSTON CREIG KNEW NONE OF IT... WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS AND SANITY RETURNED, HE LOOKED ABOUT HIS STRANGE QUARTERS QUESTIONINGLY...



GREETINGS, FRIEND!

H-HELLO...

THERE WAS A STORM... THE BOAT WENT DOWN...

YES, MY PEOPLE WATCHED FROM THE SHORE... YOU WERE WEEPING WHEN WE FOUND YOU... THEN YOU SLEEP MANY DAYS...



WINSTON'S LUCK STILL HELD OUT... THE NATIVES OF THE ISLAND WERE FRIENDLY, AND THERE WAS LITTLE TO DO, BUT AWAIT THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR, THE ISLAND WAS USED AS A PORT OF CALL BY A PASSING SHIP... AND THAT DAY WAS FAR DISTANT...

OFF TO THE JUNGLE AGAIN IN THIS HEAT, WANO? MAYBE I'LL COME ALONG TO SEE WHAT THE ATTRACTION IS!

NO, FRIEND! IS TABOO FOR YOU!



SACRED RITES OF MY TRIBE! NO OUTSIDER MAY WITNESS! FOR NATIVE PEOPLE ONLY!



THAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE INTERESTING! BESIDES I'M YOUR FRIEND...

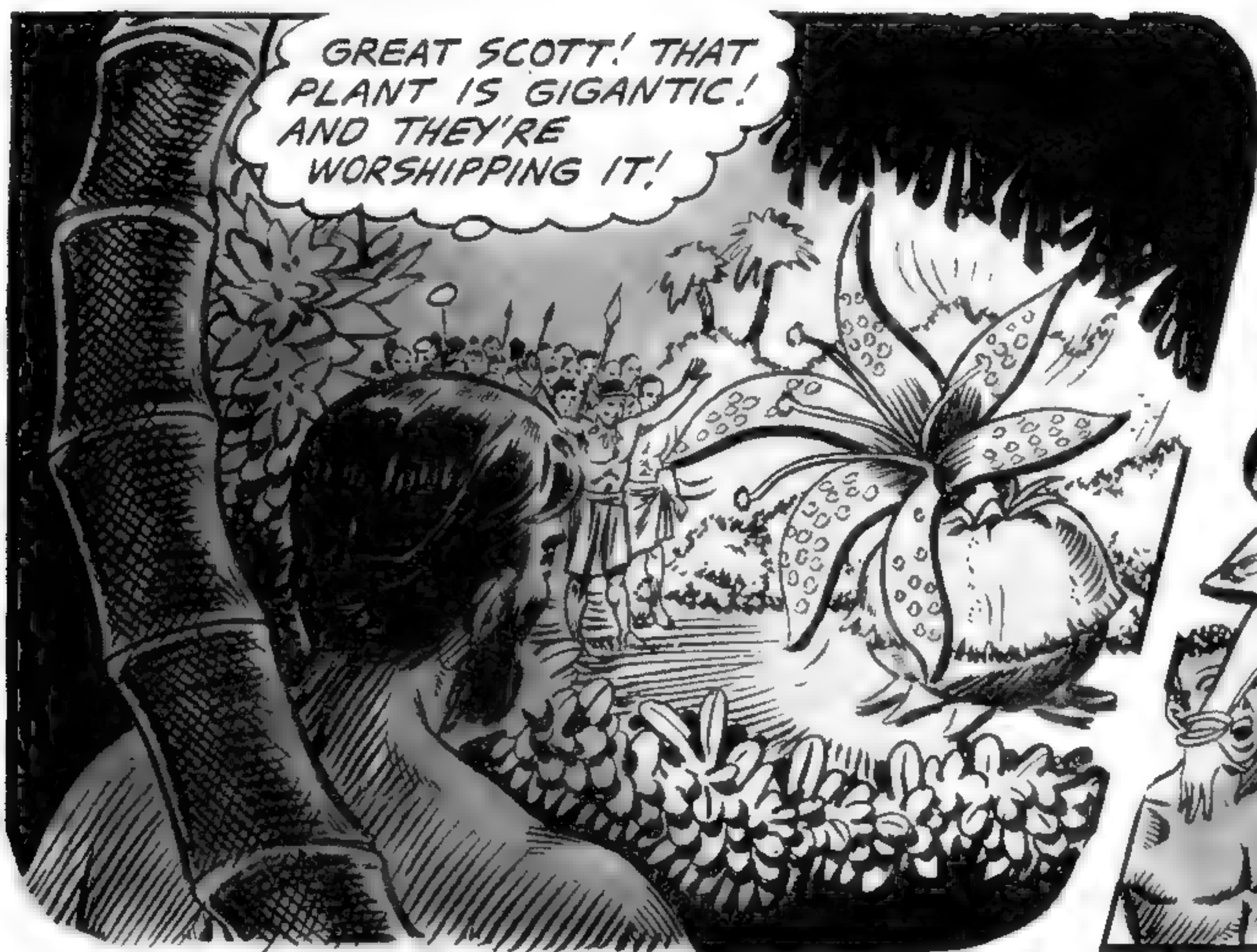
TO STAY FRIEND, YOU REMAIN HERE IN VILLAGE!



PERHAPS IF THERE HAD BEEN SOMETHING ELSE TO TAKE UP HIS TIME, WINSTON CREIG WOULDN'T HAVE LET THE SECRET RITES, BECOME SUCH A BURNING OBSESSION... FINALLY HIS CURIOSITY COULD NO LONGER BE CONTAINED - AND HE DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE NATIVE GROUP...

I'LL STAY OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND THEM... THEY'LL NEVER HEAR ME, WITH ALL THAT CHANTING GOING ON...





GREAT SCOTT! THAT PLANT IS GIGANTIC! AND THEY'RE WORSHIPPING IT!



SUDDENLY BEFORE WINSTON'S HORRIFIED EYES, A MAIDEN WAS SEIZED, AND TOSSED SCREAMING, AT THE HUGE FLOWER...

...THE PLANT WRITHED IN EERIE MOVEMENT, AND CLOSED ABOUT THE HUMAN SACRIFICE...



NO... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S GONE! BUT IT'S BLACK MAGIC! SUCH A THING, CAN'T REALLY HAPPEN!



AFTER THE NATIVES LEFT, WINSTON BEGAN A PRIVATE EXAMINATION, OF THE MAN-EATER...

LOOKS INNOCENT ENOUGH NOW! MAYBE IT WAS AN ILLUSION...



WAAA— GRABBING AT ME!



A BABY PLANT! WHAT THIS WOULD BE WORTH IN THE STATES! I COULD MAKE A FORTUNE WITH IT!



... AND IT'S SMALL ENOUGH TO TAKE WITH ME! THIS IS ONLY, AT THE FLY-EATING STAGE!

EVERY PRECIOUS MOMENT, UNTIL THE SHIP FINALLY ARRIVED, WINSTON CREIG GUARDED HIS FANTASTIC TREASURE... AND SOON, THE DAY CAME WHEN HE HAD IT SAFELY ABOARD SHIP...



NOW, MY LITTLE PET, LET'S SEE HOW YOU SURVIVED BEING ALL WRAPPED UP! I HAVE SOME NICE BITS OF MEAT, FOR YOU!

... THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING... LESS THAN A MONTH LATER... IN HIS HOME LABORATORY...



YOU'RE GETTING TOO BIG, TO MANAGE...



... WINSTON MADE AN APPOINTMENT, WITH A STAFF MEMBER, OF A METROPOLITAN MUSEUM...

YES, MR. CREIG... WHAT IS IT, YOU HAVE TO OFFER FOR SALE?

COME RIGHT IN! I THINK, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!



... I HAVE A MOST UNUSUAL SPECIES OF PLANT... A MAN-EATING PLANT!

MAN-EATING PLANT! Y-YOU'RE JOKING, OF COURSE, MR. CREIG!



THIS IS NO JOKE, MY FRIEND! COME, I'LL SHOW YOU!

UNBELIEVABLE! I'VE HEARD OF THEM, BUT I THOUGHT, SUCH THINGS WERE ONLY PRODUCTS, OF THE IMAGINATION!



WATCH MY PLANT DEVOUR THIS MEAT! THIS, IS NO IMAGINARY THING!

G-GRACIOUS!



BUT THIS WOULD HAVE NO PLACE, IN A MUSEUM! FRANKLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD LOSE NO TIME REPORTING THIS TO THE POLICE!

POLICE! THIS PLANT IS PRICELESS! THE POLICE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!



YOU'RE WRONG, MR. CREIG! IT COULD KILL A MAN, AND...

ENOUGH! IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL!



THE STRUGGLE WAS BRIEF, FOR THE PLANT REACHED OUT, AND CLUTCHED ITS FIRST VICTIM...

OHHH...

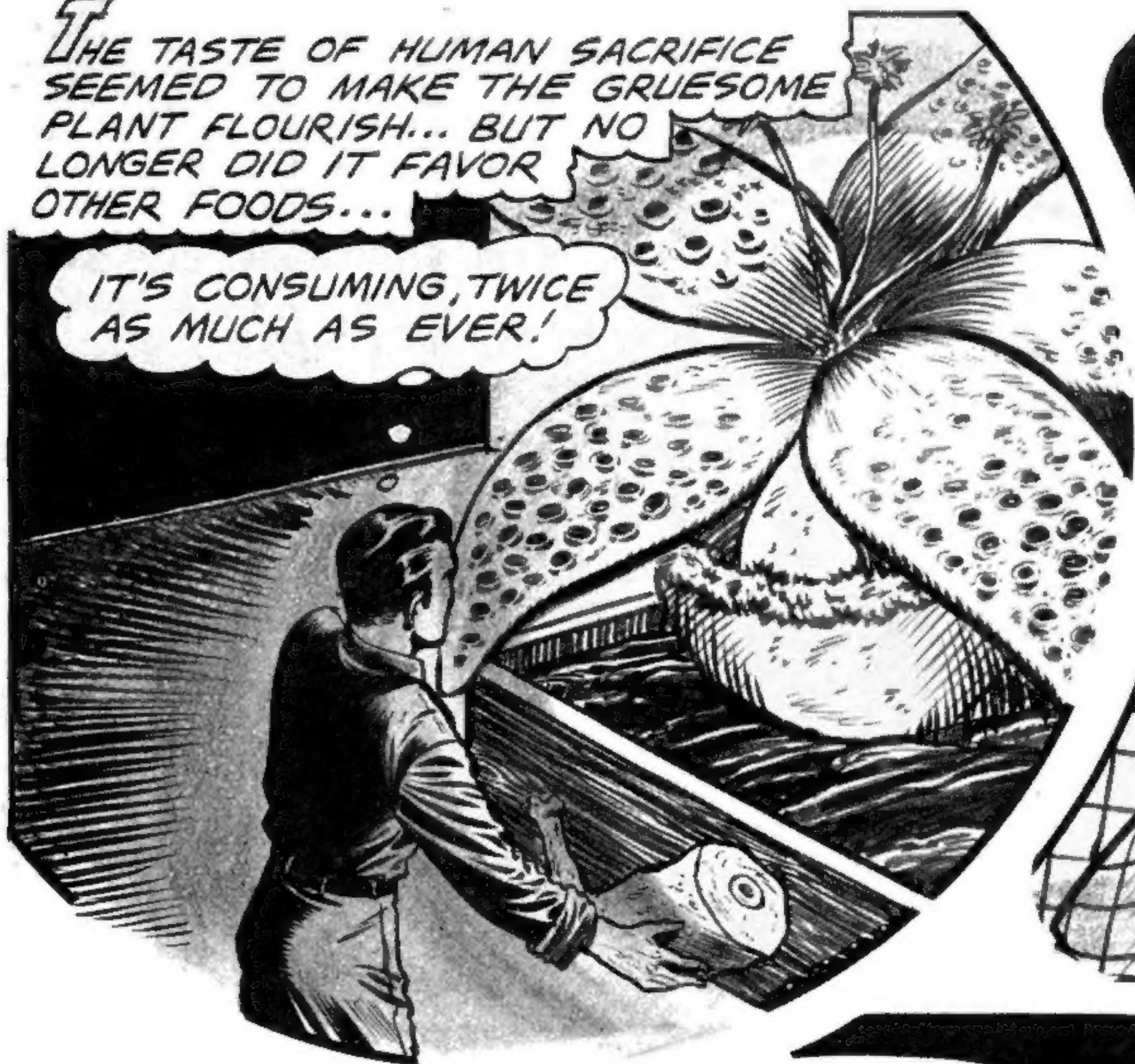
HELP!



KILLED HIM! B-BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T PLAN THIS! I'M INNOCENT OF HIS DEATH... THE FOOL!

THE TASTE OF HUMAN SACRIFICE SEEMED TO MAKE THE GRUESOME PLANT FLOURISH... BUT NO LONGER DID IT FAVOR OTHER FOODS...

IT'S CONSUMING, TWICE AS MUCH AS EVER!



IT WILL DIE, IF I DON'T KEEP IT ON THE RIGHT DIET... BUT HOW? — HOW?



DRIVEN TO A NEW MADNESS TO PROTECT HIS EVIL POSSESSION, WINSTON CREIG PLACED AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR A HOUSEKEEPER... THE NEXT SACRIFICE WAS FIGURED OUT MOST CAREFULLY...

COME RIGHT IN, MISS...

MISS STONE, SIR. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HELP?



INDEED I AM! COME... I'LL SHOW YOU ABOUT...

...BUT WHAT OF MY WAGES?

WHAT A STRANGE MAN!



NO TIME FOR THAT! YOU'LL HAVE NO NEED OF MONEY ANYMORE!

OH, NO! STOP!



JUST IN TIME! MY POOR PLANT WAS STARVING!



EACH DAY, A NEW APPLICANT CAME TO CREIG'S ADDRESS... AND FROM THERE, THEY WOULD NEVER RETURN...

YOU'RE QUITE STOUT, AREN'T YOU, MRS. KANE?

I BELIEVE IN EATING WELL, MR. CREIG, DON'T YOU?



A FEVER RAGED IN WINSTON'S DEMENTED MIND... A FEVER THAT COMMANDED HIM TO SEEK MORE AND MORE VICTIMS FOR HIS PLANT...

YOU'RE LATE! I EXPECTED YOU AN HOUR AGO!

I'M SORRY, MR. CREIG— I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET HERE, AND...



BUT MURDER DOESN'T HIDE ITS UGLY FACE FOREVER...

ANOTHER DOMESTIC MISSING! WE'RE ABLE TO TRACE THEM ALL TO ONE ADDRESS...

THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, BOSS?



POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR. CREIG. WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE, WITH YOUR HELP?

THEY COME AND GO... I DON'T FOLLOW UP THEIR WHEREABOUTS AFTER THEY LEAVE!



THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK AROUND THIS PLACE?

N—NOT AT ALL! COME! I'LL SHOW YOU...

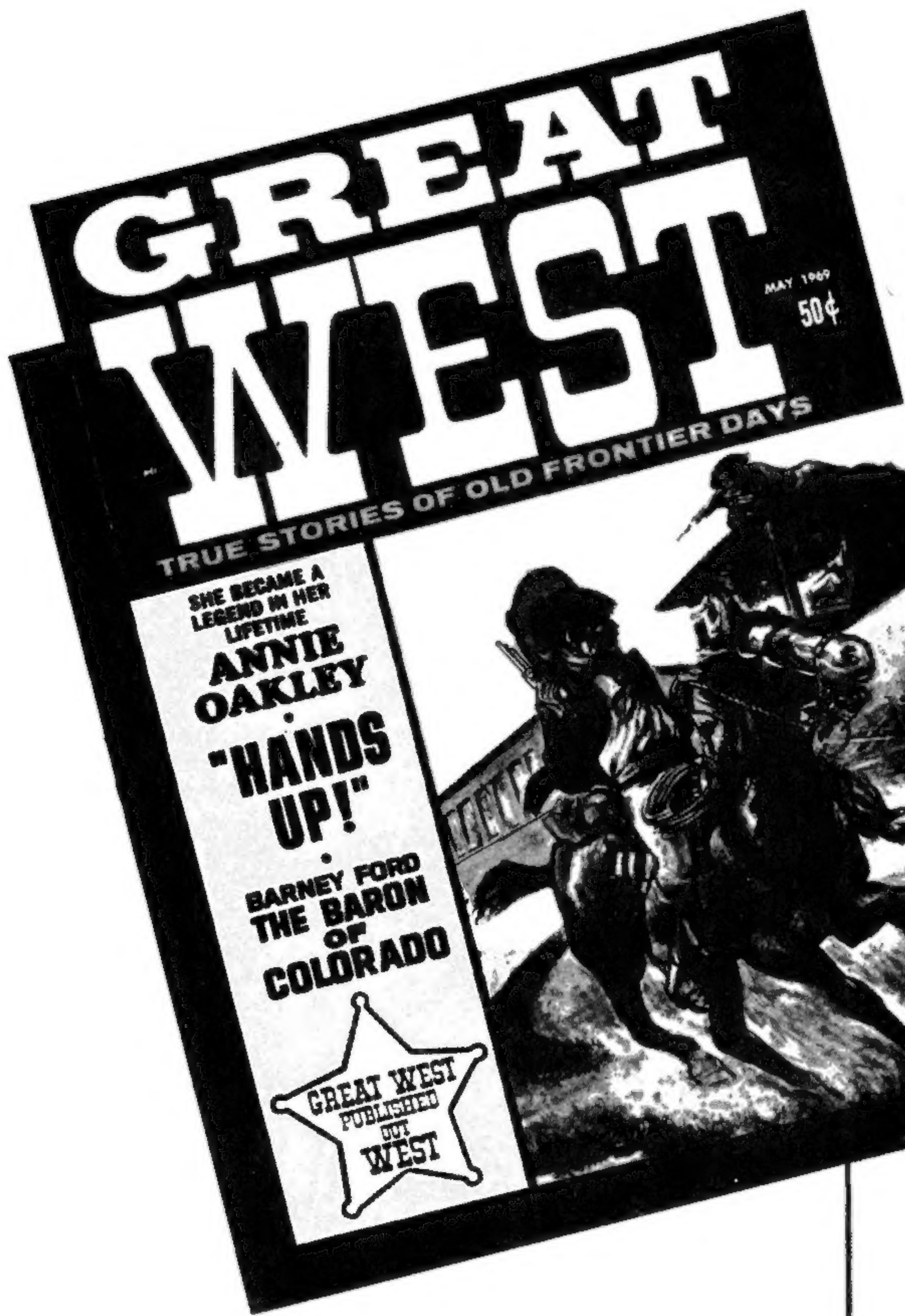


DO YOU KEEP ALL YOUR ROOMS LOCKED, MR. CREIG?

NO. JUST THIS SPECIAL ONE... BUT FOR AN EXCELLENT REASON, WHICH I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU!



CONTINUED ON THE BACK COVER



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1836 Paterson Colt Revolver

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WINSTON CREIG OUTWITTED HIMSELF AT LONG LAST... HE FORGOT THAT THE POLICE ARE TRAINED FOR SURPRISES...

WHAT'S THIS?

A PLANT, MY FRIEND! A MAN-EATING PLANT!



OH, NO YOU DON'T!

LOOK OUT! DON'T SHOVE ME NEAR IT!



WHILE THE LAW LOOKED ON IN FROZEN HORROR, WINSTON CREIG BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR...



A FRANTIC REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS, BROUGHT MORE MEN TO THE ROOM OF VIOLENT DEATH...

WELL, WE'VE KILLED THAT PLANT... BUT ARE YOU SURE...

WOW! TAKE A LOOK AT IT NOW, CHIEF!



A HUMAN GRAVEYARD WITHIN THAT DEVIL PLANT! THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE REPORT THAT WON'T BE EASY TO WRITE UP! WHO'LL BELIEVE IT?



THE END